

Leyland stops investment to meet daily running costs

Leyland Cars has stopped all capital expenditure, and money earmarked for the purpose is being spent to meet day-to-day running costs. Mr Derek Whittaker, managing director, said yesterday that the company was in a serious financial position, mainly because of the loss of more than 40,000 cars in the past six months through strikes.

Strikes 'mainly to blame' for crisis

By Clifford Webb

Mr Derek Whittaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, shocked 550 management and union representatives at a meeting yesterday by announcing that the company's financial position was so serious that he has practically stopped all capital expenditure.

This means that within six months of its formation, the largest company in the state-controlled British Leyland concern is being forced to break its commitment to the Government not to use money earmarked for capital investment to meet day-to-day running costs.

Mr Whittaker said he had no alternative. If he had not halted capital spending he would have been forced to go to the National Enterprise Board for more money before the end of March. The next tranche of government cash is due in May. He admitted that management was partly to blame for the crisis, because it had underestimated market demand in the closing months of 1975 and had reduced production accordingly.

But Mr Whittaker made it plain to shop stewards from his 35 factories that shopfloor disputes had been the biggest setback. More than 40,000 cars had been lost in the past six months through strikes and this had left Leyland extremely short.

He outlined an emergency package of proposals to the unions, which he hoped would provide the 10 per cent increase in production before the end of the year. He said the gap between supply and demand.

It called for management and unions to cooperate to make the new participation committees work as soon as possible and a commitment from the unions to ensure that strikes did not occur until established dispute procedures had been exhausted, until national officials had given their approval and until statu-

tory strike notices had been observed.

Mr Whittaker also pressed the unions to avoid inter-union disputes, which have been a feature of recent strikes, particularly at Cowley. One of his most controversial proposals was that the unions should agree to overtime working in certain sectors while voluntary redundancy continues.

At a press conference later, Mr Whittaker said there was no question of a further part of the £200m provided by the Government in September being channelled from BL's other companies to Leyland Cars. It is believed that the car company received about £150m of this first allocation.

Mr Whittaker said: "I do not want to be featherbedded and we are clearly not going to be featherbedded. We have been allocated a certain amount of money to last a certain time and we must stand or fall on that."

Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, addressed the management and union meeting, held in private in Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, for 45 minutes. He told a press conference afterwards that he had not gone to whip workers for the poor productivity of recent months. He had been heard in attentive silence and was applauded at the end.

Lord Ryder admitted that low productivity continued to be a major problem, but he clearly wished to avoid giving any impression of conflict with the unions on this issue.

He revealed, however, that he had given the unions details of higher productivity levels achieved in "identical" European car companies. "I said quite frankly that if the level of productivity was not improved, I could not see how they would get the level of productivity necessary for the next tranche of government money."

Business Diary, page 23

Mr Foot's threat to overturn Tory majority in Lords

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

As the battle over the closed shop and the press freedom provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill was renewed in the Commons yesterday, Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, warned the House of Lords that if it continued to throw out the Government's legislation enough Labour peers would be created to overcome the present Conservative majority.

Although Mr Foot's threat started off in jocular fashion with a reference to a precedent from the reign of Queen Anne in 1711, the Secretary of State added: "I hope I will be taken seriously despite the jokes. The Lords must be careful

about the way they exercise their powers, particularly because they exercise them only against Labour or Liberal governments."

Mr Foot, who was moving the second reading of the Bill, introduced under the Parliament Act procedure after being rejected by the Lords at the end of the last session, told MPs that he found the conduct of the Upper Chamber offensive to proper democratic procedure. They invoked that final power only when Labour or Liberal governments were in power and never did so against Tory governments.

After citing the Queen Anne precedent, Mr Foot added: "If the House of Lords were to repeat such conduct frequently it would be a prompt remedy which could be invoked. It is a most

respectable precedent and I hope that the Lords will keep it in mind."

He pointed out that the Bill, as reintroduced, contained nothing on the press, but the Government intended to introduce a clause about the press freedom charter later.

From the Conservative front bench, Mr Prior, Opposition spokesman on employment, made clear that the Tories would be seeking to widen the attack on the Bill by tabling many amendments, to be considered in the Lords, relating to the closed shop and to personal liberty.

MPs, he suggested, would want to look at those issues afresh in the light of what had been happening in recent weeks with the railway workers and with the six men from Ferry-

bridge power station who were dismissed under a closed shop agreement.

Mr Foot was happy at the thought of extended debate on this already much debated Bill. His usual jovial oratory gave way to anger against his persecutors, in particular Lord Goodman, peers in general and Mr William Rees-Mogg. But it was for the editor of *The Times* that Mr Foot reserved his choicest epithets.

Referring to the editorial on the "Ferrybridge six", the Secretary of State said the editor always seemed to be rebelling against the Government for things that he committed himself. He threw his stones from a glasshouse of Crystal Palace proportions.

Describing Mr Rees-Mogg as "the laziest, most arrogant, waddle down Fleet Street, or

perhaps more accurately, as quack lawyer-in-chief, of the readers who sit at the end of Fleet Street, he said the editor denounced profligacy and announced that the *Times* would not be a newspaper more heavily subsidised than any other in history.

Then, having shown that he paid closer attention to Mr Rees-Mogg than he did to most mortals, Mr Foot concluded: "I do not believe that we need to take too much notice of the editor of *The Times*."

With that off his chest he denied that he had ever said that the *Ferrybridge six* were not victims of misemployment. He said they had voluntarily declared themselves dismissed.

Parliamentary report, page 7

Radical new Hailsham proposals on hanging

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

On the eve of the House of Commons debate on the subject Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone yesterday explained to me his radical system for reforming the death penalty for murder, and giving them to a new kind of board, have not been made public before.

Lord Hailsham believes that there should be a new definition of categories of homicide, with the most serious category carrying the death penalty. Capital murder should be defined in a crude and simple way.

If it is too crude and sophisticated, the sentence into a dreadful murder, as we did over the distinctions in the Homicide Act, 1957," he said.

He accepts as inevitable that such a broad definition of capital murder would cover a large number of people who ought not to be executed, for instance young people, those who acted as pawns of others, and killers in crime passionnelles. Another example might be where the murder conviction was based solely on identification evidence and a slight doubt as to its reliability remained.

The question then arises on what ground and by whom is the decision to be made whether a convicted "first degree" murderer should be executed or not? On that issue Lord Hailsham departs from the conventional approach. As soon as the judge passes the death sentence and leave it to the Home Secretary to order a reprieve if he thinks fit.

He would take the function of passing sentence away from the judge, and would be referred to a "reprieve board", which would have the specific task of finding and identifying mitigating factors and reasons why the death sentence should not be carried out.

He said: "Instead of leaving it to one person to impose the death sentence it should be the remit of a body which would be made up of representatives in favour of the convicted person."

Continued on page 2, col 5



A Muslim militiaman carrying a child runs for cover in Beirut where heavy fighting continued yesterday. Army moves in, page 5.

Siege clues identify a top IRA terrorist

By Clive Borrell and Stewart Trender

Police officers yesterday identified one of the men involved in the events leading to the siege of a council flat in Balcombe Street, St Marylebone, London. But they do not know if he is one of the gunmen holding Mr and Mrs John Matthews hostage in the flat or whether he escaped before the police trap closed.

He does not seem to be Michael Wilson, the man sought in connection with the murder of Mr Ross McWhirter. But he has been involved in IRA terrorist attacks in London.

Mr John Wilson, Deputy Assistant Commissioner (Crime) at Scotland Yard, said the man had been known to the police until yesterday as Z. He was "a good class man in criminal terms, and would be a very bad man. We want him very badly." But the police are not making public the man's name or description.

It is understood that his identity was uncovered by forensic police who examined the holiday dumped by the gunmen last Saturday as they fled from the police towards the Matthews' flat.

The police have issued photographs of the man in the past. Mr Wilson said: "We can say we have positively identified the man. He is one of the major figures we have been seeking for the past 18 months."

Descriptions will be issued to every police force in the country because of the possibility that one of the gunmen pursued on Saturday escaped. The police said last night that he is a man of whom the public will be aware.

As the siege drew into its fourth night Mr Matthews' sister, Mrs Joan Royce, made a radio and television appeal to the gunmen to free their hostages (Reported on page 1). The mental and physical condition of the men and their hostages was causing concern last night to senior Scotland Yard officers.

The gunmen's attitude seemed to be hardening as the police, who earlier had promised that there would be "no deals", tried to entice them to surrender without harming Mr John Henry Matthews, aged 54, and his wife, Sheila, aged 53.

Commander Roy Habershon, head of the Yard's bomb squad, said: "They seem to be trying to take control of the situation. Offers of soup, coffee and cigarettes were all rejected by the gunmen, who yesterday disconnected for more than three hours the land-line telephone link installed by the police. When the link was reconnected, Det Chief Supt Peter Ingham, head of the bomb squad, had an 11-minute conversation with 'Tom' the gunman who has done most of the speaking since the siege began.

Commander Roy Habershon, head of the bomb squad, said: "It was quiet, calm, even charming cajoling; trying to get them to accept our offer of food in return for the safe return of Mr Matthews. Little was said on the other end, and I was not there."

Continued on page 2, col 1

Admiral of the Fleet gives Nato warning against defence cuts

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 9

A warning against the emerging trend in some countries to cut forces and their contribution to security in the West was given by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, chairman of Nato's military committee.

Unless they were prepared to pay the premium for seawall conventional defence, he said, the erosion of military capability leading to a lowering of the nuclear threshold, he said. Ironically, the one defence minister absent was Mr Roy Mason, of Britain, who was fighting off Treasury demands for further cuts in Britain's defence budget at a Cabinet meeting in London.

Admiral Hill-Norton also coincided with the publication of a Nato intelligence report which disclosed the first signs of a Soviet military presence in Nigeria.

In his address to Nato's defence planning committee Sir Peter pointed to "growing improved Soviet machinery" for reinforcing their troops in Europe—as shown by the regularity of their movements of about one-quarter of their manpower.

Last spring the operation was nearly all conducted by air and was completed in one-third of the time it took in 1972. With improvements in Eastern Europe's road, rail and canal systems, this threatened to cut the time Nato would have to prepare if an attack came.

The movement of Nato's own



Sir Peter Hill-Norton: growth of Soviet military power emphasised.

reinforcements by sea convey across the Atlantic was vulnerable and time-consuming, although the United States retained massive air-lift capability. He emphasised the urgency of involving civil transport agencies in Europe to augment the military for reinforcement and logistic support.

Sir Peter also pointed out that the Soviet Union and its allies had kept the period of conscription for two years, from a military point of view, 18 months was essential to produce a soldier ready for formation combat. Apart from those countries with all-volunteer forces like Britain, Canada and the United States, only three

Brezhnev call for 'a spirit of mutual trust'

Warsaw, Dec. 9.

Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, today called for a breakthrough in the dialogue between the arms and disarmament talks with America and proposed European-wide conferences of communist and non-communist nations on power, transport and pollution.

Urging the creation of a post-Helsinki spirit of mutual trust, Mr Brezhnev said: "No small advantage could be gained by convening all-European conferences and inter-state conferences on environmental protection, transport and power industry."

The proposals were made in the course of a largely conciliatory 25-minute speech on the second day of the Polish Communist Party's congress.

Emphasising the necessity for military détente, Mr Brezhnev said: "progress in negotiations on the reduction of armaments forces could contribute a step forward in this field."

He made no specific proposals. Mr Brezhnev said it was the socialist nations which had been largely responsible for the road to détente. "We will try to create the Earth's not engulfed in the flames of a nuclear conflagration," he said, pledging communist states to unfailing efforts for a lasting peace.

Looking relaxed in a light blue suit, the Soviet leader attacked Western states for failing to publish the final act of the Helsinki conference, as the

agreement requires. "Publication leaves much to be desired. It is that, however," he said. He called on all signatories to the Helsinki document to create a moral atmosphere and strengthen the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation. If the Helsinki principles were implemented, "every effort will be made to break the deadlock in the nuclear arms limitation negotiations."

Mr Brezhnev also attacked these "signatories" of the Helsinki pact who sought to isolate "everybody" from the "flaming mud" and trying to undermine joint socialist policy.

Analysts took this as a reference to China—UPL.

From Washington, Mr Kissinger, Secretary of State, disclosed today that he was postponing until probably the middle of January his intended meeting in Moscow with Mr Brezhnev, "even if an attempt will be made to break the deadlock in the nuclear arms limitation negotiations."

Dr Kissinger noted that the slight postponement of his Moscow trip had nothing to do with the health of Mr Brezhnev. The delay was due to an American wish "not to rush details" on strategic weapons, which would allow both sides to fix their positions before attempting to reconcile them.

Talks about hospital dispute are 'friendly'

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

Talks to try to end the dispute that has disrupted the National Health Service took place last night between junior doctors' leaders and Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, in a friendly and "fairly optimistic" atmosphere.

The juniors want an independent audit of payments for overtime to include this year's figures, and a main topic was whether they could include the total for the second half of this year. Mrs Castle told them that the latest figures available are to last June, and that it is unlikely that the October figures will be available before Christmas. She pointed out that the doctors' salary review body would have to decide whether to revise its pricing of the juniors' new contract in the light of later figures.

The juniors, led by Dr David Wardle, chairman of the Hospital Junior Staffs Committee, and Dr Peter Zacharias, chairman of their negotiating committee, were accompanied by Mr David Bolt, deputy chairman of the consultants' committee, as an observer, and Dr Derek Stevenson, secretary of the British Medical Association.

The juniors, it is understood, made out a detailed case which included conditions of work, excessive hours, a basic week of 40 as opposed to 44 hours, and contractual agreements.

Industrial action began officially on November 27. The progress had been made with Mrs Castle's offer to include this year's figures in the audit, maintain that more money for overtime payments is the only acceptable solution.

"Man turned away": Mr Joseph Boyle, aged 61, was turned away from the casualty department at the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, after he had cracked and bruised his ribs in a fall at his home, his son said last night (The Press Association reports). The department was closed by the junior doctors' dispute. Mr Boyle walked to Windsor, where an ambulance was called for him and he was taken to Wexham Park Hospital, Slough.

Mr Jenkins will not appeal to Lords on TV licences

By Our Political Staff

The Home Secretary announced yesterday that he had decided not to appeal to the House of Lords after considering the decision of the Court of Appeal on December 4 in the case of *Home Office v. Harcourt* on "overlapping" television licences. Such licences were taken out in advance of the appointed day in order to forestall the increase in the fee for a television licence.

The Court of Appeal had reversed a judgment given in favour of the Home Office in the High Court on November 26. Mr Jenkins said in the Commons yesterday that holders of overlapping licences would be asked to ignore the revocation letters they had received, and all overlapping licences would run to a date 12 months from the first day of the month in which they were issued.

Arrangements will also be quickly made to refund the additional £6 paid by those who took out overlapping licences and who later responded to requests to pay the difference between the old fee and the new.

The Home Secretary said: "The clear and unanimous judgment of the Court of Appeal is that it was not a proper use of my discretion in the circumstances."

It would be a matter for Parliament to pronounce upon, Mr Jenkins went on, but "fresh arrangements, and perhaps fresh legislation, will in my view be necessary to overcome the difficulties which have arisen this year and the decision of the court of reconciling the requirements of the law with a fair, coherent, and reasonably economical system of administration."

Parliamentary report, page 7

Smith warning to terrorists on eve of talks

Mr Ian Smith told the Rhodesian Senate yesterday that the constitutional discussions he will be having with Mr Joshua Nkomo, the African leader, would be without preconditions. Talks based on the precondition of immediate majority rule would be quite unacceptable.

Mr Smith said that if terrorists came into Rhodesia in their thousands they would be killed by the thousands (The Press Association reports).

Another Amsterdam hostage released

By publishing the demands of the South Moluccan terrorists for an independent republic in the South Pacific, the Dutch Ministry of Justice was able to secure the release of another hostage from the besieged Indonesian consulate in Amsterdam yesterday.

Chequers security

The public footpath that passes only 470 yards from the terrace at Chequers, near Wendover, Buckinghamshire, will be closed before the weekend in the interests of security. In the High Court a move by a local resident to keep the right of way open was dismissed.

Law Report, page 9

Iceland steps up cod war harassment

Icelandic patrol boats accelerated their harassment of British trawlers yesterday, cutting the trawl wires of the Hull vessel, St Giles. The Royal Navy is at a disadvantage in the "Cod War" skirmishes, our Diplomatic Correspondent reports.

Affluence warning

Affluent societies are in imminent danger of collapse, not from material famines or excesses, but because of political and social disintegration. That prediction was made last night by Lord Ashby, former Master of Clare College, Cambridge, and first chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Dons accept £6

University dons have reluctantly accepted a pay settlement of £6 a week although they say a claim that would have given them between £20 and £25 a week predated the Government's latest pay policy.

Chrysler stewards seek nationalization

Chrysler shop stewards have urged the Government to nationalize the United Kingdom subsidiary without compensation. A secret document presented to Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, suggests a three-stage rescue operation for the company.

Commons catering

Mr Clement Freud, MP, disclosed that he resigned from the Commons catering subcommittee because of extravagance in the facilities provided.

Pollution: Britain finds EEC agreement

"extremely satisfactory"

Australia: The Queensland Premier calls for a royal commission to investigate his allegations against two ministers in the former Whitlam Government

World Churches: Mild reference at Nairobi assembly to restrictions on religious liberty in Soviet Union

Recycling Waste: Three-page Special Report on technology, legislation and conservation measures

University Rugby: Cambridge beat Oxford, 34-12 at Twickenham, their highest score in the series

On other pages

Leader page, 17

Letters: On the death penalty for terrorists from the Archbishop of Canterbury; On the closed shop law and the individual from Mr Norman Tebbit, MP, and Sir Oswald Mosley

Leading articles: Capital punishment: Pollution in EEC countries; Features, pages 16 and 18; Bernard Lewis on why there is no place for hanging in our society; Nicholas Bethell on the Sakharov and the Nobel Prize; Cecil Newson on human rights; Tessa Blackstone contributes to our International Women's Year series.

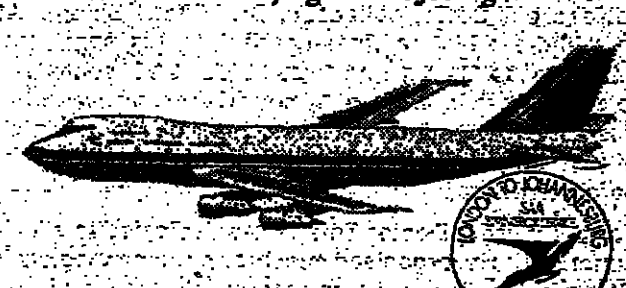
Arts, page 8: Harrison Birtwistle talks to John Higgins about himself and the theatre; Stanley Reynolds on *Rogue's Rock* (Southern); Irving Wardle on *Yobbo* (Newt) (Shaw Theatre)

Obituary, page 19: Sir John Wheeler-Bennett; Mr S. L. Drummmond-Jackson; Sport, pages 14 and 15; Cricket: John Woodcock on the Chappell brothers' defeat; Football: UEFA Cup preview and Hunter and Lee disciplinary hearing; Tennis: New 675,500 tournament sponsored at Wembley; Racing: Ascot acceptors and Worcester prospects

Business, pages 20-22: Stock markets: Share prices advanced in this trading and at the close the FT index was 3.2 higher at 384.5

Financial: Editor: Hanson's changing profile: ICH moves towards self-financing; cosmetic troubles at Smith & Nephew; Business features: An assessment by Ronald Pullen of the Burton Group after the Scarborough report; Geoffrey Smith on the task before the new Scottish Development Agency

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HOME NEWS

New landing system could earn Britain £2,000m

By Our Political Staff
Mr. Clement Freud, Liberal MP for the Isle of Ely, yesterday explained his resignation from the House of Commons catering subcommittee. He said MPs had no right to exclusive and extravagant catering facilities at the taxpayer's expense. The catering department at the House of Commons was losing about £330,000 a year, and he had argued, unavailingly, that the only way to stop the huge losses was to increase sales. He wanted members to regard the House as "a holy place" and to allow the public to use some of the facilities, such as tea on the terrace during the recesses.

Mr. Freud actually resigned last week, after putting his points to the Milner Committee, which is investigating the performance of the catering subcommittee and the losses of the catering department.

He said the decision to buy German china costing £12,000 had been the last straw. It had not appeared on the subcommittee's agenda, nor had it ever been discussed. "though we did spend a lot of time debating the alleged rudeness of a barman to a member."

He bemoaned the lack of professionalism in the catering operation, adding that he was the only professional caterer in the building. He had tried for 21 months to improve matters, but his knowledge of catering was never used.

He recognized it was practically impossible to break even, under the present system and

Mr Freud explains why he left catering post

with the odd hours of the House, but he believed that if the public were allowed to use certain facilities sales could be increased and losses cut.

Among his suggestions was the sale of the banqueting facilities in the lavatory rooms to any prospective customers "rather than sticking to the rigid and antiquated rules that demand 'sponsorship' by an MP for every function."

He wanted to open the catering facilities during the recesses. There had been objections on security grounds, but he said: "From a security point of view it is no more difficult to screen people who are eating and drinking than screening those looking at the statues."

Mr. Freud said they ought to provide facilities for the thousands of more people who visited the House of Commons daily. They could buy postcards and pamphlets and be allowed to purchase drink, cigarettes and chocolate.

He suggested that fewer waiters and waitresses should be employed in the members' dining room, where there were 22 serving staff for a maximum of 150 customers. Last week the average number at each meal was only 63, he said.

He did not object to the quality of the food, only to the price. A three-course meal in the members' dining room was £1.15. He did suggest, however, that more regional dishes should be included in the menus, and added that perhaps they should have a blind sausage-tasting competition to find a better House of Commons sausage.

Interference with sports body denied by minister

Mr. Howell, Minister of State for Sport and Recreation, denied yesterday that he had sought to influence or interfere with the work of the Sports Aid Foundation, an independent body which he and Sir Robin Brook, chairman of the Sports Council, set up in October to assist the training of Britain's sportsmen and women.

Mr. Peter Cadbury, chairman of Westward Television, resigned as chairman of the foundation on Monday, saying the minister was using it as a "political football."

Mr. Cadbury complained that the minister had appointed governors to the foundation's board whom he had not approved, and that Mr. Howell had intended to announce the first bursaries before an independent grants review body had been set up and before the foundation had raised any funds.

Mr. Howell said yesterday that he and Sir Robin were "pleased to receive Mr. Cadbury's resignation". Since the first meeting of the foundation, neither he nor anyone in his office had had any communication with the foundation until last week, when he received a letter from Mr. Cadbury asking for the removal of three of the governors. All had been appointed by himself with Mr. Cadbury's approval.

The British Olympic Association's Olympic Appeal has so far raised more than £150,000, it was announced yesterday, and progress towards its £500,000 target is on schedule.

Dealers 'still want bigger cars'

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent
Despite unprecedented increases in costs motorists still regard the car as one of the most important items in the household budget, according to a survey published yesterday by British Petroleum.

Asked which type of expenditure they found most difficult to reduce, motorists in the sample put petrol second only to food and before heating and lighting, cigarettes, holidays, clothes, home improvements and entertainment.

The survey found there was still a strong desire to trade up to a bigger car. Half the motorists who replaced cars this year chose vehicles with larger engines. The greatest movement was into the 11 to 1200cc class. There was a tendency for choice to polarize between small cars up to 1100cc and larger cars of 1500cc or more.

That might suggest some decline in the 1100cc to 1500cc size of vehicle as they tended to fall between the choice of motorists wanting economy and those who sought performance and comfort.

Mr. Geoffrey Sheppard, retail manager of BP Marketing Ltd., commented: "This survey confirms our earlier findings that despite steadily rising costs the car is still considered to be an indispensable part of our life style today."

The survey also revealed a continuing swing towards do-it-yourself methods reflected in

a 15 per cent drop this year in servicing at garages. BP estimated that more than five million motorists now do their own repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Sheppard said petrol sales in Britain had dropped by 6 per cent since the Arab-Israeli war and the quadrupling of crude oil prices two years ago. That contrasted with an annual growth rate up to 1973 of between 5 and 7 per cent.

He predicted that the market would begin to revive towards the end of next year and be back at the 1973 peak of 15,500,000 tons in 1979. Fourteen million cars were in use in Britain and the total was expected to reach 16 million by 1980. Petrol consumption a vehicle was likely to stay at about 300 gallons a year.

Treatment in hospital for kidnap officer

An army captain who kidnapped a young Irish private and held him captive for three days was placed on probation at Bristol Crown Court yesterday for three years. David Michael Beaumont, aged 28, of The Light Infantry, was ordered to spend the first year as an in-patient at a private psychiatric hospital at Northampton.

Captain Ash, who won the MC for gallantry in Belfast, was said at a previous hearing to have been irrationally affected by the conflict in Ireland and to have kidnapped the private the day after the Camberley public house bombing.

Mr. Justice Wren told him: "There may be some people who would regard you as yet another emotionally minded casualty of the dreadful conditions in Northern Ireland and their repercussions in this country. They would be wrong. You have previously suffered from a severe personality disorder when you were a boy. It would be wholly inappropriate to say in public how that disorder manifested itself. Later you became an alcoholic."

The judge described Captain Ash as unquestionably an honest and courageous man and a dedicated officer.

Mrs Oppenheim predicts dearer food in new year

By Our Political Staff
There was clear evidence that a further sharp rise in food prices would take place early next year, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, opposition spokesman on prices and consumer protection, said in London yesterday.

The cause was mainly the steep increase in costs in the food retailing and manufacturing industries, including "soaring" nationalized industry prices, rates, and a pay deal which, although it was within the Government's limit, represented an increase of nearly 20 per cent in some cases."

Mrs. Oppenheim accused the Government of being "perilously complacent about the rate of inflation in the coming year". She believed that a more serious threat than food price increases to the counter-inflation policy was the continuing weakness and recent deterioration of the pound.

Mr. Douglas Hurd, Conservative MP for Oxon, Mid, said in London yesterday that the Government was lagging behind on direct elections to the European Parliament. "Having wasted six months, they have the gall to tell our Community partners that we probably could not meet the agreed timetable by which direct elections could be held in May or June 1978."

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£6 for forestry men

Forestry workers will get 56 a week pay rise next month. The Forestry Commission Industrial and Trades Council agreed yesterday to raise the basic rate to £37 (£40.10 for a craftsman).

£80,000 find of heroin in ship

From Our Correspondent
York
A routine search in a ship which docked at Hull from the Far East uncovered Chinese heroin worth more than £80,000 on the black market, it was stated at York Crown Court yesterday. Wong Lap-sing, aged 35, a seaman, was jailed for a year for illegally importing heroin. He pleaded guilty.

Three polythene bags containing packets filled with 2.6lb in all of the powdered drug were found by a customs and excise officer in a Dutch-registered vessel, the Flinsshire, it was stated.

The heroin was in a secret compartment built into a chest of drawers in the cabin of Mr. Wong.

Mr. Wong, described as a wholesaler of drugs rather than a pedlar, was said to have paid 4,000 Singapore dollars (£400) for the haul to a man who had straggled around the Flinsshire while she was at Singapore.

When the vessel arrived in London Mr. Wong tried to sell the heroin in the West End but no one was interested. He returned it to the ship but it was discovered during the Hull check.

Life jail for murder of boy

Ivan Bale, of St Edmunds Road, Glastonbury, admitted at Bristol Crown Court yesterday murdering Ian Perry, aged 16, to be a manslaughter, outside Glastonbury in August.

Perry, an ironmonger's assistant, of Victoria Buildings, Glastonbury, died from his injuries in hospital, five days after he had been found lying in his underwear in a field the roadside two-and-a-half miles south of the town.

Company cleared after diver died in Scapa Flow

From Our Correspondent
Kwall
Walton Mole Company (Great Britain) Ltd., of Middlesbrough, urged with failing to provide working conditions for a diver who was drowned while working for it in Scapa Flow, was found not guilty by Sheriff A. Macdonald at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, Orkney, yesterday.

The sheriff, in a reserved judgment, said he could not find it proved that the company had failed in a duty imposed on it by section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.

Peter James Walsh, aged 25, Brunshaw Avenue, Burnley, died on July 6 last. Another diver, Peter Carson, aged 20, of Lochaber Road, Arden, Glasgow, died after had been sucked into a pipe-

line when he went down from the support ship Celtic Surveyor to find out what had happened to Mr. Walsh.

The company had pleaded not guilty at the hearing the previous week, when the sheriff said that because of the weight of technical evidence to be considered he would reserve judgment for a week.

A third diver, Stephen Richard Winston, aged 29, of Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, who gave evidence, almost lost his life when he went down to search for the other two men.

All three were working on pipelines running from the Occidental Oil terminal at Flotta, Scapa Flow, to a tanker mooring buoy two miles out. Walton Mole was operating a new system for internal cleaning and coating of the pipes.

Tan jailed in indecency case

John Dickinson, aged 57, said there taken photographs of lewd practices involving children at his home, was sentenced at Bristol Crown Court yesterday to five years' imprisonment.

Mr. Dickinson, a salesman, of 21st Street, Bath, admitted lewd practices involving three boys and a girl since November, 1971.

Boy of 14 pushed girl to death

A boy, aged 14, who was said to have killed a girl of six pushing her from the tenth floor of a block of flats was ordered at the High Court in Glasgow yesterday to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure. He admitted a girl's murder.

Mr. Ronald Sutherland, QC, advocate deputy, said a psychiatric report showed the boy to be sane and fit to plead and offering no mental disorder. Psychiatric examination cast no light on the motive for the meaningless crime.

Fire kills 600 pigs

A burning heating lamp is thought to have caused a fire that destroyed six hundred pigs and piglets and 200 tons of raw and damaged eight pig-slaughtering units at Springwood Farm, Cowley Lane, Holmesdale, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, yesterday.

Robe-makers change hands

Edo and Ravenscroft, of Chancery Lane, London, manufacturers of royal, legal, academic and civic robes, founded in 1689, has been bought for £420,000 by Mr. Peter Mikhail, the financier. It is said to be the oldest tailoring firm in existence.

It has been acquired from Mrs. Hilda Walton and her family.

Peer's daughter on drug charges

Lady Rose Mary Sydney Delbray, aged 25, daughter of the ninth Lord Hardwicke, who died last year, was remanded on bail totalling £10,000 at Guildhall Justice Room.

She was further charged with possessing 2.4 grams of cannabis in London on September 12. She was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Full-time priests 'rarity soon'

Parish and People, an Anglican pressure group, called yesterday for many more part-time priests of both sexes and for a more democratic church government.

One group predicts in a new pamphlet, Men at Work, that full-time clergymen will be rare in 10 years' time.

Gas

DOING A GOOD JOB FOR BRITAIN.

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Natural gas is saving Britain money—one thousand million pounds a year on our balance of payments, which otherwise would have to be spent on imported oil. And it's saving Britain energy, too. Natural gas is such an efficient fuel that in terms of useful heat it already meets 30% of the country's needs. And by 1980 this figure could well rise to 40%.

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Because it is a remarkably clean fuel, natural gas has already done a great deal to help reduce atmospheric pollution. And because gas is transmitted through unseen underground pipelines, vast quantities of energy can be transported quickly and easily with very little permanent effect on the countryside.

In the 10 years since North Sea gas was first discovered, gas sales have increased almost fourfold, the appliances of more than 12½ million customers have been converted to burn the new fuel, and a vast new high-pressure, remotely controlled pipeline network has been built.

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Natural Gas is one of Britain's most precious assets. So please use it carefully—it's much too good to waste.



BRITISH GAS



HOME NEWS

Lord Ashby identifies the urgent changes needed if affluent societies are not to collapse

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Lord Ashby, former Master of Clare College, Cambridge, last night identified the urgent changes he believed essential to avert political, social and economic collapse.

Giving the Savile Foundation lecture at Southampton University, the first chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, was taking a second look at the forecasts of doom, and particularly the predictions published under the title *Limits to Growth*, which showed that disaster was inevitable from exhaustion of non-renewable resources, starvation from overpopulation and from the poisonous action of pollution.

He said: "The imminent danger is not the collapse of affluent societies due to material famine or excesses. It is collapse due to political and social disintegration. And the urgent task is not to protect our great-grandchildren: it is to do something about human communities already suffering from these threatened ultimate perils."

"If our political systems do not respond to these known, present and well publicized dangers they are hardly likely to respond to the possibility, however plausible, that similar disasters might occur after we have been in our graves for a century or more."

Lord Ashby said it was unfortunate that the message of those who took the first look at doom had become distorted because their methods of calculation in making forecasts had been discredited by technical inaccuracies. Indeed the use of computers had made that sort

of long-range forecasting not more reliable but more dangerous, for the computer confers an impression of precision and determinism upon the assumptions fed into it. "This meretricious treatment gives the assumptions an unwarranted air of accuracy," he said.

As a biologist he saw no guaranteed tenure for man on earth. It would be an evolutionary anomaly if *Homo sapiens* were not to go the way of the pterodactyl. In the much shorter run there was even less reason why Western technological man should survive more than a millennium or so. It would be an historical anomaly if our present economic and social system were not to go the way of the culture of the Minoans and Aztecs.

The question was whether we were in a crisis or a climacteric.

Temporary sacrifices, temporary hardship, technological "fixes", some violence, perhaps even war or revolution, were the ways society might emerge into a fresh phase of stability with some changes, but with the ancient self-confidence of man as lord of nature restored. If, however, man were approaching a climacteric those expedients would not work.

For generations it had been taken for granted that all that could be done in science in technology must be done. The new ethic emerging was that somehow man must agree not to do all he was capable of doing.

Lord Ashby suggested the real weakness in the analyses predicting doom was the omission from the computer calculations of the factors taking into account the mechanism of social and political response to environmental change.

His first example of that omission concerned the issue of non-renewable resources. Until the industrialized nations found alternative sources or substitutes they remained dependent on countries underdeveloped or notoriously unfriendly to the West for essential supplies.

Long before reserves were physically exhausted they were likely to become politically inaccessible, except on terms to be dictated by the producing countries. Opec, the association of oil-producing exporting countries, was only the forerunner for a succession of geopolitical confrontations. Copper and bauxite had become commodities subject to similar action and others would follow.

The West had not yet begun to see the effects of quite simple cooperation between countries owning different raw materials could exert on countries that depend on imports of those raw materials. Opec, for instance, might cooperate with the members of Cipep (Conseil Intergouvernemental des Pays Exportateurs de Cuivre) to buy up copper reserves with revenue from oil.

The short-term response was to search for fresh reserves and substitutes. That would buy time. Also for a time the West could trade knowledge for oil and ore. But exports of universities and polytechnics would sooner or later make the developing world self-sufficient.

The first priority, therefore, was to tackle the geopolitical consequences of the depletion of non-renewable resources. The second priority was to cope with the instability of man-made ecosystems such as large cities.

Where a Ms is always as good as a male

From David Leigh
Manchester

The Equal Opportunities Commission, set up to promote women's rights, intends to be the very model of a modern non-discriminatory employer.

At its headquarters, dispersed to Manchester from London by the Government to avoid geographical discrimination against the provinces, staff will be able to work part-time and flexible hours.

That ought to benefit women and help men who might want to rejoin their lives. "We have had letters from men who are anxious to have part-time work so that they can share the responsibilities for bringing up children," Miss Betty Lockwood, the chairman, said yesterday.

The headquarters will not have a nursery to help its women workers. A staff of 50 did not justify it, Miss Lockwood said, but if there was a need it would be considered.

Nursery education is already being reduced in various areas to save money. The commission could examine the situation if it thought the quality of women's opportunities was being affected, Miss Lockwood agreed. But local authorities and industry ought perhaps to work together in providing nurseries.

Advertisers can call jobs what they like, so long as everyone can apply. It was not true, Miss Lockwood said, that employment as a Santa Claus came into it. Being male was a genuine qualification as a Santa Claus for reasons of authenticity.

The chairman and deputy chairman of the commission are both women, but there is certainly no political discrimination. The first priority, therefore, was to tackle the geopolitical consequences of the depletion of non-renewable resources.

The second priority was to cope with the instability of man-made ecosystems such as large cities.

Miss Lockwood said they were determined that women should not get unneeded pressure for jobs by "reverse discrimination". Two of the principals are men and four are women. Two of the senior executive officers are men, and the third is a woman. There has been no discrimination on grounds of sex.

Up to 15 commissioners are still to be appointed by the Home Secretary. Some are expected to be men. In the interim, the civil servants, a senior civil servant said yesterday, "They really ought to have at least one black on the commission as well." The press officer is expected to be a woman.

The commission, which will help to implement the Sex Discrimination Act, expects 10,000 inquiries a year. It has already had a number of complaints from men about having to work five years longer than women before retirement.

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University teachers reluctantly accept £6-a-week pay rise

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

University dons have reluctantly accepted a £6-a-week pay increase although they claim a settlement which would have given them between £20 and £25 predated the issue of the Government's latest pay policy.

The new increases for about 32,000 university teachers will cost about £3.9m a year. The settlement will give lecturers a minimum annual salary of £3,174, rising to a maximum of £5,234 and a maximum of £7,742.

Professors will be on a minimum of £7,897 and the average will be £9,280. Those earning more than £8,500 will not get any increases because of the Government's pay policy. Increases will be paid to take the top up to £8,500 but not above it.

Mr Laurence Sapper, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, which has 29,000 members, said they were disappointed that they were not awarded about 20 per cent more, but that the offer now made represented the maximum the

Government was willing to pay.

At a meeting of the teacher's panel of the main Burnham Committee, the unions, including the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters, decided to press ahead to settle the claim by April 1 next year. Action threat: Six hundred teachers at Wolverhampton are threatening to take militant action in the new year if they are not given the assurance that there will be no education cuts in the town (our Wolverhampton Correspondent writes).

Approval for the action has been given to members of the National Association of Schoolmasters by their national executive.

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Conciliators meet: Council members of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service held their first meeting in London yesterday. Starting far left, proceeding clockwise: Professor J. C. Wood, Sheffield University; Mr D. R. F. Turner, secretary; Mr J. E. Mortimer, chairman; Mr A. S. Kerr, chief conciliator; Professor H. A. Clegg, Warwick University; Professor L. C. Hunter, Glasgow University; Lord Brighshaw, former general secretary, National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel; Mr G. F. Smith, general secretary, Union of Com-

mission, Allied Trades and Technicians; Mr Jack Jones, general secretary, Transport and General Workers Union; Mr H. L. Farrimond, B Railways Board; and Mr T Swinden, deputy director general, Confederation of British Industry.

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In brief

Dublin remain in Herremca
Two men charged in connection with the kidnapping of Dr Tiede Herremca, the businessman, were remanded in custody at a Special Criminal Court Dublin yesterday.

John Vincent Walsh, 26, and Bryan McGowan, 20, both of Tallamore, co C, will next appear in court January 15.

Libel action by Mr Jack Jones
Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport General Workers' Union, is bringing a High Court action over a newspaper cartoon, based on the Mad Hatter party, in *The Guardian* Monday.

Solicitors acting for Mr Jones issued a writ yesterday seeking damages for libel and an injunction restraining further publication of *Guardian* Newspapers Ltd. Mr John Kent, the cartoonist.

Luxurious home for rats
More than 20,000 white mice were moved yesterday into the £250,000 home at Hull University. They will occupy the floors of the four-storey Wilson Laboratory, which is equipped with air-conditioning, humidity control and other luxuries.

Scientists on the top floor will be observing the rats in the interests of gerontology, study of aging in humans.

Fraud allegation
William Grundy, aged 46, chairman of the Northamptonshire Police Authority of Rectory Farm, Swell, Northamptonshire, is to appear before magistrates at Northampton today on fraud charges.

Gas repairs delayed
Many homes in West London may be without gas Christmas because a dispute involving National and Local Government Officers' Association members is delaying more than three thousand repairs.

Bone donor tested
Doctors at Westminster Medical, London, began tests yesterday on Mr M. J. Jones, 23, a Samoan, to see if he gave a bone marrow transfusion to Anthony Nolan, aged 6, Challock, Kent.

Crossbow death
A film director, aged 34, found dead yesterday in a crossbow bolt in the chest at Caldey Island, Carmarthen, was being interviewed by police.

Guernsey museum
Guernsey is expected to see a new museum on the island in January on a £320,000 and art gallery for Guernsey. It will be built in Candens, on the outskirts of Peter Port.

Independence cho
St Anselm's College, head, Merseyside, announced yesterday that it will be phased out from next year.

Scottish house price boom imminent, report says

From a Staff Reporter
Edinburgh

Because of planning restrictions, Edinburgh will have only a fifth of the new office space it requires next year, according to a report by the Scottish branch of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors issued yesterday. Without considering the needs of a Scottish assembly, Edinburgh requires 400,000 sq ft of new offices a year. Next year only 80,000 sq ft will come into use. One result is that, while office rents in London have fallen, in Edinburgh they have risen, the report says.

"The commercial property market is under a great weight of legislation, but has fared a little better than in England because of North Sea oil. The inhibitions on much needed development could lead soon to a shortage of modern office accommodation," the report states.

There are also signs of

greater activity in the Scottish house market, and a sharp rise in prices is in prospect. In Glasgow, surveys report up to 30 offers for single houses recently, in some cases up to a half above the asking price. After 18 months in the doldrums house-builders are busy again, the report says. Most of the large builders with land banks are once more active, and small contractors are hunting for plots to build up to a dozen houses, confident of prices to cover current costs. Instead of having completed houses standing empty for months, they have people buying again at foundation level, though many builders are no longer stating prices in advance.

"We have all the ingredients for a price explosion. The buildings societies are full of money and there is this pent-up demand, felt more in Scotland because of our low stock of houses. The 11 per cent mortgage rate is no longer a deterrent."

Edinburgh road plan is attacked

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

A plan for a relief road through the centre of Edinburgh was attacked yesterday as an outdated proposal from a time when fuel was cheap and road-building fashionable. The South Central Road, Action Protest, an organization supported by 18 community groups in the city, said housing, not roads, was needed around the city centre.

The organization has sent a report on the expected effects of the proposed Bridges relief road to every Lothian regional councillor, asking them to vote for the abandonment of the plan. The regional transport committee meets today.

Dr Maurice Bradley, presenting the report for the organization yesterday, said: "If the road was built it would involve a big financial commitment, with substantial loss of housing and housing potential from the derelict areas that would be created."

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SNP starts lengthy inquiry on devolution proposals

From a Staff Reporter
Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party has embarked on a three-month inquiry to discover how the Scottish people regarded the Government's proposals and to find a representative public view on the future shape and powers of a Scottish Government.

Party branches are to seek meetings with many local organizations, including trades councils, trade union branches and ratepayers' associations, to exchange views.

Mr William Wolfe, SNP chairman, said in Edinburgh yesterday that the party did not expect any resentment from its approach. "We are the only organization in Scotland in a position to undertake such a widespread sounding out of Scottish opinion," he said. All the 470 branches in the party would be involved in the survey.

The demand for the information was made at a recent national council meeting of the

party. A special open meeting of the council will be held in the first quarter of next year to draw together an informed and representative view of Scottish opinion.

"Many of Scotland's established voices have already pronounced a verdict on the White Paper on the devolution proposals," Mr Wolfe said. "The powers among these diverse bodies as the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), the Scottish TUC, the Law Society of Scotland, church organizations and colleges, and the assembly's powers are inadequate to meet Scotland's needs in impressive testimony to the new spirit of confidence alive in the country. Now it is the turn of the Scottish people in their communities and through their grass roots organizations to give their views on Scotland's future."

Several organizations had already volunteered their views, and it was clear to the party that many people, even in the trade union organizations, were sympathetic to SNP policy.

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Judges have 'limited role only'

By Our Legal Correspondent

Sir Henry Fisher, a former High Court judge who became a merchant banker and is now president of Wolfson College, Oxford, has joined in the debate on the judge's role with a plea calling on judges to remember that they have only a limited role to play and that they should not try to be legislators.

He specifically joined issue with Lord Justice Scarman, who, in last year's Hamlyn Lectures, suggested that judges should be more flexible in meeting the demands of a changing society.

In a lecture to the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry delivered last night in London, Sir Henry pleaded for judges and lawyers to see only in areas within which they could operate efficiently and successfully and make a useful contribution.

He said: "It seems to me that the law serves the community best when it recognizes explicit recognition throughout society of the limits to what courts and lawyers can be expected to perform." The laws of obscenity were an example of the law straying beyond the limits in which it could perform a useful function.

Sir Henry suggested that if Lord Justice Scarman's view were to prevail, the law would become more uncertain, and that would not be to the benefit of society.

The proper instrument for law reform was Parliament, aided where necessary by law reform bodies or royal or departmental commissions. Judges were not trained to legislate.

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Shorter prison sentences urged by Lord Longford

By a Staff Reporter

Lord Longford last night criticized the "appallingly sluggish" progress being made in finding alternatives to prison. He called for a more liberal use of the parole system and a number of prisoners for shorter prison sentences.

He did not expect a big advance in that direction, however, until the Home Office was less nervous of public response, he told a meeting in London on the subject of our overcrowded prisons, organized by the Howard League for Penal Reform.

The attitude of the general public remained much less enlightened than a Christian approach required, he said. Penal reformers also had to accept the blame for failing to educate the public more effectively.

Lord Longford said he had to face the fact that prison, although a "rotten answer", was unavoidable for quite considerable periods. But in his view many of the present long-term prisoners should be able to spend the latter part of their sentences in community work outside prisons.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, chairman of the Howard League, said the bulk of the 41,000 prisoners in the country were petty offenders. For them, whether or not they deserved punishment, prison did not make sense. Prison made people more, not less, likely to offend again, he said, pointing to the fact that two thirds of those in prison had been inside before.

What kept most people honest was self-respect; prison stripped it away. People got into trouble because they could not cope with their difficulties; prison insulated them from learning to cope.

Mr Arthur Horley, secretary of the prison committee of the Methodist Church, called for much shorter remands in custody before trial. Bail should be mandatory where the offence did not carry a prison sentence and should be the rule where a custodial sentence was unlikely.

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Irish fishing industry calls for a 50-mile limit

A call for a 50-mile fishing limit around Ireland was made yesterday by representatives of several sections of the fishing industry in a report to the Dublin Government.

The report was commissioned after a dispute earlier this year had led to the blockading of several Irish ports.

The plan to extend the limit from the present 12 miles conceded that Irish-based boats could not catch all the fish available in a 50-mile zone surrounding the republic's coastline.

But the document says: "The

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Tobacco industry smoking study costs £1m a year

The tobacco industry is spending £1m a year on research to assess the extent of the health hazard from smoking, according to a review of the past five years' work published by the Tobacco Research Council yesterday.

A large part of long-term studies of extracting substances from tobacco, for painting on mouse skin, to identify cancer-forming and other agents has been superseded by a new programme.

It includes investigating the role of nicotine and carbon monoxide in the development of heart diseases. Investigations have also been concluded in comparing the effects of nicotine on animals and the subjective impression of human smokers to the inhalation of tobacco smoke.

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FIGHT BACK AGAINST CANCER

It is good to remember that most people live their lives untouched by any form of cancer. But as all too many are aware, cancer is something that casts its shadow far beyond those it directly affects. That is why so many people think it right to help the urgent work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

From our discoveries in the past has come much of today's hope for sufferers. To go forward with our research for future alleviation, we ask your help in the present.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Donations can be made by cheque or credit card to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 241, E.C.4, London W.C.2. Tel. 01-275 5111.

Take an Italian to dinner tonight

Italian Institute of Foreign Trade
26, St. James's Place, London W.1

Look for the D.O.C.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

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Italian Institute of

OVERSEAS

Mr Smith foresees lengthy talks with Mr Nkomo and dismisses notion of immediate majority rule

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Dec 9

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, said today that any settlement talks based on the precondition of immediate majority rule would be quite unacceptable to him. He emphasized that the talks he will be having with Mr Joshua Nkomo, president of one faction of the African National Council will be without any preconditions.

Speaking to the senate, the Prime Minister recalled that for the past six weeks he had been having a series of meetings with Mr Nkomo, culminating in the signing last week of an agreement covering procedural aspects of the constitutional discussions. The terms which had been made public were in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Pretoria agreement which was signed by representatives of the Rhodesian, South African and Zambian Governments in Pretoria on August 9.

Mr Smith said the terms should make it possible for him and Mr Nkomo to proceed now with meaningful constitutional discussions which he for his part had been endeavouring to get under way since last year.

He continued: "These discussions will, of course, be with-

out preconditions. But I regret to say that I have noted in the recently reported remarks of some leaders in and outside Rhodesia a further attempt to introduce this particular precondition of immediate majority rule. I therefore find it necessary once again to reassure the people of Rhodesia on this score and to state categorically that any such solution is quite unacceptable."

Mr Smith said he and his colleagues were going into the talks determined to do their best to reach a solution that would provide stability and security for Rhodesia as a whole and would safeguard the rights and interests of all the people and all the population groups which comprised Rhodesia. This would be no easy task and he did not expect a quick result.

There would be many conflicting interests and opposing points of view to be reconciled. They would be resolved only if both sides showed restraint, patience and goodwill. The prospects of success would be diminished by the activities of the many enemies who had a vested interest in the failure of negotiations.

Mr Smith said that for years Rhodesia had been subjected to threats and propaganda and

now there was the threat that unless there was capitulation and the country was handed over to black majority rule, a fresh terrorist campaign would be mounted against Rhodesia and terrorists would come in their thousands.

He did not wish to meet threat with counter threat, but he wished to leave all concerned in no doubt whatever regarding Rhodesia's determination to strike back and of Rhodesia's ability to do so. He was threatening nobody and extended the hand of friendship not only to the Africans of Rhodesia but also to neighbouring countries.

It was folly, he said, to regard reasonableness and a desire for fair play as a sign of weakness. If terrorists came into Rhodesia in their thousands, they would be killed by the thousands.

Mr Smith said that contrary to reports carried by the news media there has not been one word of negotiation on the terms of a new constitution. It was incredible, he said, how the mass media insisted on misrepresenting the position.

Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo are expected to hold their sixth meeting in as many weeks tomorrow to draw up an agenda for the constitutional conference.

Dr Sakharov barred from trial of dissident

Moscow, Dec 9.—Soviet court officials today barred Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel peace prize winner, from the trial of a friend and fellow human rights campaigner.

Dr Sakharov, whose wife flew to Oslo today to collect the Nobel prize on his behalf, travelled to Vilnius, Lithuania, for the trial of Dr Sergei Kovalev, who is charged with anti-Soviet activity.

Sources in Vilnius said the courtroom appeared to be packed with Communist Party militants described by official as "interested citizens" from local factories and offices. They took up their seats before the trial began at 10 am.

Mr Sakharov and about 20 other dissidents from Moscow, along with many local people, were barred from the courtroom on the ground that there was insufficient room for them. A Western correspondent was also denied entry.

"There was a lot of shouting in the corridor outside the courtroom," one source said. "Sakharov appeared to be very angry."

Dr Kovalev, a biologist, was arrested nearly a year ago in Moscow and flown to Vilnius. He is being charged under Article 70 of the Russian Federation's criminal code, even though his trial is taking place in the Lithuanian Supreme Court.

The charge stems from his alleged connexion with the underground Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church. The journal published examples of the persistent persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania by the atheist authorities.

Dr Kovalev is also a member of the Soviet section of Amnesty International, the London-based organization which concerns itself with political prisoners. The Moscow Amnesty group has not been recognized by the Soviet authorities.

In other developments, 59 prominent political dissidents today called on all nations to declare a general political amnesty to mark tomorrow's anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The appeal came in an open letter drawn up by the 11-man Soviet section of Amnesty International and signed by Vladimir Osipov, a dissident, for "anti-Soviet activities".

Mr Osipov was arrested in November last year on charges



Caught in a snow flurry, Dr Sakharov leaves Moscow by train on Monday night for his vain journey to the Vilnius trial.

of publishing abroad the samizdat newspaper, Vecher, and of receiving money from émigré organizations abroad. He had already been held in Soviet prison camps from 1961 to 1968 after a previous conviction for anti-Soviet activities.

During the hearing today the prosecutor said Mr Osipov had appealed to Amnesty International, the "anti-Soviet" organization, asking it to take up the case of political prisoners in the Soviet Union.

The underground newspaper closed down after Mr Osipov's arrest.—UPI, Reuters and Agence France-Press.

Neither the Soviet Union nor the other East European embassy representatives will be coming to tomorrow's case, Mr Tim Greve, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said today. Some of their embassies had already returned their invitations, he added.—UPI.

Declaration on Human Rights, we turn to the heads of government and politicians of all countries with an appeal for a general political amnesty. In particular, we turn to those of them who in the past were themselves subjected to political repression, the signatories declared.

Amnesty criticism: The Soviet authorities were criticized by Amnesty International for refusing to allow it to send observers to the trials of two of its members, Dr Kovalev and Dr Andrei Tverdokhlebov, the secretary of Amnesty's Moscow group.

David Simpson of Amnesty said in London that it had made several requests to the Soviet authorities in recent months for permission to send an observer to the trials. But the authorities had never formally replied.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation today upheld an eight-year prison sentence, passed by a court in Vladimir in September, on Vladimir Osipov, a dissident, for "anti-Soviet activities".

Mr Osipov was arrested in November last year on charges

Sidestep by churches on Soviet curbs

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Dec 9

A confrontation between representatives of the Russian Orthodox Churches and other Soviet-block churches on the one hand and Western delegates on the other, produced an unexpectedly mild reference to the question of the restriction of religious liberty in the Soviet Union in the World Council of Churches assembly here today.

After a heated debate yesterday, in which the Russian delegates strongly opposed the expansion of a declaration calling for full implementation of the Helsinki agreement, the text of the declaration was further discussed in a committee which sat until early this morning.

During the committee discussion, Russian Orthodox delegates accused others of victimizing the East European states. This brought a retort that for too long the council had observed an unwritten rule not to criticize the Soviet Union, while being more than ready to criticize the West.

Metropolitan Filaret, the Vicar of Moscow said that those supporting the inclusion of a reference to the alleged persecution of Christians in the Soviet Union were creating grave new problems for the church in Russia. Metropolitan Yuvendy, the Bishop of Zarysk, was heard to comment that the Russian Church had existed without the help of the World Council of Churches in the past and could do so again.

In the event, the revised text of the declaration, which was returned to the plenary session, recorded that the assembly recognizes that churches in different parts of Europe live work under very different conditions and traditions.

"When a problem relates fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion or belief, the Helsinki declaration provides a new opportunity for solutions. The spirit of Helsinki clearly reflects the commitment of the signatories to prevent a new era of cold war," declaration added.

An attempt was made to the amended wording after Western and Eastern delegates had commended it as a useful compromise. But this time some delegates said it wished to propose objection, and the discussion had adjourned.

Before the adjournment, Rev. Richard Holloway, Episcopalian vicar of Old St. Edinburgh, denied that supporting the earlier proposal (to call on the Soviet Union to implement the human rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement) had conspired to put Russian church delegates "on the dock".

On the contrary, he said there had been a conspiracy to keep the matter silent. "This moment will be of historic importance and it should never be quite the same again. The assembly today approved a declaration on relations between the WCC and the Russian Church, reported new and unexpected 'green' since the 1968 assembly in Uppsala. However, declaration adds that it became clear that the Russian Catholic Church will not accept membership of the WCC the "immediate future".

Fiji bans fight to death by diver and shark

Suva, Dec 9.—A proposed fight to the death in a Fiji lagoon between an Australian diver and a 17ft killer shark has been banned by the Fiji Government. According to a Government statement today, the Theater Film Corporation of Los Angeles, which was promoting the fight, had been told by the Fiji Government that the shark in the lagoon was a blood sport. Such a fight would offend many Fijians, whose tribal totem was the shark, the statement added.

The film company offered Mr Ben Cropp, the diver, \$1m (£500,000) to fight the shark in Fiji before a worldwide live television audience.—AP.

Pro-Indonesia forces take more Timor towns

Jakarta, Dec 9.—Pro-Indonesian forces have captured several towns in East Timor, capital of Dili, "mopping up" operations according to a Dili radio report monitored here today. The radio itself was turned on Sunday by Indonesian forces, who were backing up Indonesian units, took over the capital forced the forces of the wing Fretilin independence movement to take to the rounding hills.

Today's broadcast said most of the towns of Dili, who fled to the jungle during the fighting, had returned to the capital. Reuters.

Attempt on Ovambo leader foiled

Windhoek, South-West Africa, Dec 9.—The police were hunting today two Africans armed with automatic rifles. They had been followed in a weekend attempt to assassinate Mr Taro Ilmbili, the Justice Minister of the Ovambo Homeland, said Mr Jannie De Wet, the Commissioner General for the Indigenous Peoples of South-West Africa (Namibia).

He said that the two unidentified men had called at Mr Ilmbili's shop near Ondangua and asked to see him. The shop manager, Mr Thomas Johannes, told them that the minister was on his way.

As Mr Ilmbili was leaving the shop, two Ovambo women stopped his car and warned him that he might be in danger. He drove up to the shop but kept driving when he saw the two strangers talking to the manager.

S African troops 'not helping Unita forces'

From Our Correspondent
Lusaka, Dec 9

Dr Joas Savimbi, the Angolan nationalist leader, today categorically denied that his movement, Unita, was receiving assistance from South African troops in the Angolan civil war.

Indeed, he said, Unita was actively assisting members of the South West Africa Peoples Organization (Swapo) which is fighting South Africa for the liberation of South West Africa. And Unita was allowing Swapo to use its bases in southern Angola.

Speaking at a press conference in Lusaka, he said that he was receiving daily reports that Unita followers were being killed or taken prisoner by South African troops because they were harbouring Swapo members.

Africa and with Swapo?" Dr Savimbi asked.

Dr Savimbi agreed that there were South African troops in Angola but he said they had been invited in by the Portuguese long before independence. They were there to guard the Cunene dam and to pursue Swapo freedom fighters.

He said that South Africa was an emotional issue in Africa and its alleged assistance to Unita was a clever piece of propaganda by the communist-backed MPLA which wanted to turn attention from the fact that the MPLA itself was receiving powerful support from Cuba, Russia and other East European countries.

It was this involvement by communist countries which had caused the outbreak of civil war which neither Unita nor the third Angolan movement, FNLA, had wanted.

The charge stems from his alleged connexion with the underground Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church. The journal published examples of the persistent persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania by the atheist authorities.

Dr Kovalev is also a member of the Soviet section of Amnesty International, the London-based organization which concerns itself with political prisoners. The Moscow Amnesty group has not been recognized by the Soviet authorities.

In other developments, 59 prominent political dissidents today called on all nations to declare a general political amnesty to mark tomorrow's anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The appeal came in an open letter drawn up by the 11-man Soviet section of Amnesty International and signed by Vladimir Osipov, a dissident, for "anti-Soviet activities".

Mr Osipov was arrested in November last year on charges

The Ford Short Story Competition PRIZE WINNERS

The Ford Transit Campabus: BRIAN W. HALL North Harrow

Set of Matching Luggage

Mrs Marian Williamson
London, N.W.9.
Mr Frank Dummill
London, N.W.1.
Rev. J. E. Ticehurst
Weston super Mare.

Mrs Valerie Newman
Tunbridge Wells.
Mr Eric Dickens
Newcastle, Staffs.
Mr Kevin Slamin
Bolton.

Mr Philip Trewinward
London, N.W.3.
Mr James Wilde
Devon.
Mr John Chaplin
Norwich.
Mr Ivor Tully
Upminster.

The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World

Mr John Lifton-Zoline
London, N.W.1.
Mr Jeremy E. Hunt
Sutton Coldfield.

Mr Tony Evers
Markyate.
The James Family
Shepperton.

Mr C. E. Turner
Clevedon.

WINNING ENTRY

THE TIMES

31st OCTOBER 1975

From our Transport Correspondent...

The Queen today gave her royal assent to the Free Our Roads Bill which has had such a stormy passage through Parliament.

A spokesman from the new Department set up under the Act (Free Our Roads Department (F.O.R.D.)) claimed the Act to be the greatest advance in getting British industry moving since the Industrial Revolution. He maintained that the banning from public roads of all private cars, motorcycles and pedal cycles would considerably speed all delivery times.

The new Act prohibits the driving of any private car on any road at any time, provides for new licences to be given to all classes of commercial and public vehicles, and lays down severe penalties for any breach. The Act comes into immediate effect but certain requirements (such as exhibiting the Department's initials F.O.R.D. above the radiator) allow for a three-month delay before it is enforced.

First reports show almost complete obedience to the new Act—not a private car to be seen anywhere. Most vans, lorries and public transport vehicles have already adopted the F.O.R.D. symbol. Our reporter saw only one bicycle being pushed disconsolately across a park and the only other wheels visible bore a child in a push-chair. Commercial life has been considerably boosted by the Act.

The Chairman of a leading public company told our reporter that his salesmen had been depressed by struggling through traffic jams, but today showed a spirit not seen since the war. A local government officer happily explained that the roads under his charge could at last be swept properly and street lamps reached for cleaning.

As expected buses and trains have been packed and coach hire firms have reported record bookings. The experimental Dial-a-Bus service has proved its flexibility and will form an important part of the public's life after the Act. Hospitals are extending their ambulance service to ensure as much mobility as possible for old people.

The apparent obedience to the Act is surprising in view of the battle in Parliament and the many marches and demonstrations against it but it may be that everyone is waiting to see exactly what the effect. The Leader of the Opposition pledged her party's support for a repeal of the Act on return to power. "I deplore the freedom of the streets and deny it to the individual," she said. The newly appointed Minister of F.O.R.D. was emphatic that the Country would benefit both in terms of an improvement to the environment and financially. "The money wasted on private cars can now be diverted to public transport," he said. Asked why the Department had used the initials of a well-known company, the Minister explained that it would ensure that all vehicles bearing those initials would be a constant reminder of the aims of the Department to free Britain's roads. "In any case," he added, "the two will soon be the same."

BRIAN W. HALL North Harrow

Queensland Premier seeks loans inquiry

Brisbane, Dec 9.—Mr Bjelke-Petersen, the Queensland Prime Minister, alleged today that two ministers in the former Whitlam Government and a number of other people had been due to receive "staggering kickbacks" in secret commissions on overseas loans. In the state Parliament Mr Bjelke-Petersen called for a royal commission to look into his allegations.

He refused to disclose details or to name the ministers, claiming that would prejudice the conduct of the royal commission. The allegations, at a special sitting of Parliament, came after the return to Brisbane last Friday of Inspector Joseph Keen of the Queensland police, and Mr Henry Wiley Fancher, of Acheron, north Queensland, an American rancher.

The two men flew to Switzerland last week with Mr Wallace Rae, the Queensland Agent General in London, to search for new documents.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen's allegations threw the state parliament into an uproar with Mr Thomas Burns, the Labour leader, calling for Mr Fancher to be brought before the Bar of the Queensland Parliament to give details of the Swiss investigations. Mr Burns' motion was defeated.

Mr Whitlam later called Mr Bjelke-Petersen's allegation "a classic smear". "There are no crooks in my ministry," he said on television. "The proper place to investigate kickback allegations was a court, not a royal commission. He said he was absolutely satisfied that there was nothing in the allegations and challenged Mr Bjelke-Petersen to produce his evidence.—AP.

Leader of Australian unions says refusal to accept election outcome would be hypocritical

From Michael Leapman
Sydney, Dec 9

One of the predictions often made during this Australian election campaign is that if the Liberal-Country coalition wins its expected victory, it will find it hard to obtain the cooperation of the trade unions. There is talk of a general strike, or at least of a showdown between the unions and Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Liberal leader, which could bring down Mr Fraser's government as a similar showdown caused the downfall of Mr Heath's in Britain in 1974.

The man to give an authoritative opinion on this is Mr Robert Hawke, president of both the Australian Labour Party and of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. I caught up with him at his Sydney hotel early in the morning, as he was shaving and packing for his flight to another hectic day's campaigning.

He said: "The fact of an election of a coalition government would not in itself mean a breakdown because it would be hypocritical as we it for the Liberal-Country coalition to throw the state parliament into an uproar with Mr Thomas Burns, the Labour leader, calling for Mr Fancher to be brought before the Bar of the Queensland Parliament to give details of the Swiss investigations. Mr Burns' motion was defeated.

Mr Whitlam later called Mr Bjelke-Petersen's allegation "a classic smear". "There are no crooks in my ministry," he said on television. "The proper place to investigate kickback allegations was a court, not a royal commission. He said he was absolutely satisfied that there was nothing in the allegations and challenged Mr Bjelke-Petersen to produce his evidence.—AP.

movement accepting that," he said. "There would be a breakdown in industrial relations." But he dismissed suggestions of a general strike in protest at the dismissal of Mr Gough Whitlam, the former Prime Minister. "If that was going to happen it would have happened by now, wouldn't it?" he asked.

Mr Hawke's dual role in the Labour Party and the unions places him in a powerful position, and was of great assistance to Mr Whitlam's government when it had to introduce deflationary policies. When I put it to him that people in Britain might find an anomaly in his holding these two positions, he replied: "And we in Australia find it quite unusual for trades union officials to become lords of the realm."

He added that he was uneasy about the increase in unemployment but we tried to make wage indexation work. "We're not economic troglodytes," he said. The dapper Mr Hawke, who is 45 and a former Rhodes scholar, has much more power as the general secretary of the TUC in Britain. Unions affiliated to the Australian Council of Trade Unions are required to put disputes in the council's hands if they are going to affect other unions or have ramifications in other states.

"They don't always do it but they usually do," he said. The procedures for arbitrating industrial disputes are more clearly laid down by law than in Britain, so potentially long strikes can often be nipped in the bud.

His position in the Labour Party does not deter him from criticising the policies of the former Whitlam government. He thinks the controversial decision to cut tariffs on imports which drove many Australian companies into difficulties because of foreign competition was not sufficiently thought through. Inadequate measures were taken to protect employment. But he adds: "If a had had the tariff information I would have been higher the it is."

Mr Hawke has never been official of a leading trade union but rose in the ACTU through his work as a research officer and advocate. Many regard him as a likely future Prime Minister, and he asked whether had that ambition.

"I don't spend much time thinking about the parliament any side of things," he said. "But possibly I would at stage think about transfer to the parliamentary side. If I did I would probably for the top position."

What about the party leadership if, as the polls predict, Labour loses on Saturday? "There will be a fair bit of examination of the camp and what we did wrong," Hawke said, "and I think some heads will roll. As Mr Whitlam, I don't know his decision would be. I wanted to remain leader would so remain."

Melbourne, Dec 9.—The early Country vote is leading for a landslide victory according to the latest opinion poll. The poll gave coalition a lead of 12.6 per cent reflecting a fall of 3.8 per cent in Labour support in one of the latest figures put the Coalition vote at 52.8 per cent, the Labour vote at 40.2 per cent, a swing of 7 per cent towards the coalition.—AP France-Press.

Seven-year jail terms in Athens torture trial

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Dec 9

The Athens court martial after 18 hours of deliberations pronounced early today prison sentences ranging from seven years to 18 months for 14 of the 36 Greek Army officers and NCOs accused of torturing prisoners during the dictatorship.

Seven-year terms were given to the main defendants, Theodoros Thyphyloyanalos, a cashiered colonel, and Major Nikolaos Hatzizisis. Major Nikolaos Spuros was jailed for five years. All three were former commanders of the EAT-ESA interrogation camp and are already serving sentences of 23 and 20 years on previous convictions of torture.

Eleven defendants were given sentences ranging from four years to 18 months. Nine were given suspended sentences and 13 were acquitted.

What has outraged Greek

public opinion in this trial, details of which were published by the press for the past three weeks, was the provocative attitude of the chief defendants who insulted and threatened witnesses and journalists and challenged the impartiality of the court.

The conclusion of this trial coincides with the opening of another torture trial involving six naval officers and ratings, among them a retired rear-admiral. The defendants are charged with abusing authority, using violence and inflicting injuries on civilians and naval staff arrested for anti-regime activities in February, 1968.

According to the indictment read out in the Piraeus naval court martial, the accused officers had converted the disused cruiser Elli into an interrogation station where they maltreated their prisoners to obtain confessions on alleged plots to sabotage warships.

Vientiane rally celebrates new regime in Laos

From Bruce Palling
Vientiane, Dec 9

A rally held in Vientiane today to celebrate the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos last week, was attended by tens of thousands of people from Vientiane and the surrounding villages.

A number of Cabinet Ministers were present, but President Prince Souphavong and Mr Kayson Phommavong, the Prime Minister, did not attend. Mr Phommavong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, told the rally of the new government's programme and urged the people of Vientiane to organize themselves to protect the country. Representatives of the Army and workers also addressed the rally.

The prefect of Vientiane, appointed by the Pathet Lao, accused the United States and Thailand of spreading rumours which encouraged people to flee across the Mekong river into Thailand. On the 5th last week of King S. Varrhana, he said the monarchy was feudal and longer served useful purposes. It was announced today United States Hercules aircraft formerly in South Vietnam now the property of the Vietnamese, have begun ferry petrol, sugar, dried milk to Vientiane. Vientiane province was cut from supplies last month Thailand closed its border, a dispute over border demarcation along the Mekong. The agreement with North Vietnam for the shipment of rice into Laos had been in some time ago but the of the Thai border has put the North Vietnamese, carry it out.

already passed into Laos North Vietnam with supplies including cooking oil. More goods will be sent to the end of the year.

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA AND BALLET

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THE ARTS



Harrison Birtwistle: the composer and the stage

The name of the composer Harrison Birtwistle has slid quite unobtrusively to the roster of associate directors at the National Theatre. And that is in character. He remarks wryly that his first assignment, the basic reason for coming to the National, was to reveal his whole strategy at the drop of a question. The eyes may look lazy, yet they are constantly appraising.

"*Hamlet* is pretty cut and dried. Shakespeare says that he wants one of those fanfaires you have just mentioned at a specific moment and I have to find a way of doing it. That word 'find' is rather alien to me. Normally I sit in a room alone and compose and make the decisions: here at the National I am with a group of musicians and we have to work it out together. There is no question here of having a layer of music reflecting the action, rather it is a matter of forcing the musicians to watch what is happening on stage, to be part of it and indeed on occasions to motivate the drama."

A composer of Birtwistle's stature does not arrive in the theatre to provide background music. "No, although I must admit that I'm doing that to some extent in *Hamlet*. The basic reason for coming to the National is that my responsibilities here seem to me one way of breaking the present impasse between the composer and the theatre. There are virtually no outlets nowadays. The opera houses are all geared to the grand statement and the new ones are never willing to allow a

failure. I wouldn't write for the ballet because the composer is never permitted to have a one-to-one relationship with the performers."

"He had good collaborators. The attention of the National, and it's far too early to define my job here beyond saying that I'm contracted to work on two productions a year, is that it provides a chance of re-examining the traditional links between the composer and the stage. When Monteverdi made that first musical statement about the theatre he changed everything. I'm not saying that we are going to do that, but we might remove a few clichés. In *Tamara* (which Peter Hall also directed) I don't want to use any existing trombones or trumpets; what we need are things that you blow and hit. *Agamemnon*, which comes after [also with Hall], is a total musical statement and the chorus itself is, of course, an ensemble."

In the mid 'Sixties Birtwistle was one of a group of young composers, which included Peter Maxwell Davies and Alexander Goehr, who were constantly experimenting with music and the stage. Had his mind been reaching back to those days?

"Yes, naturally. But there is one important difference. What we wrote was rarely done in the theatre: we were all working in the context of music, we hardly ever had a 'production'. Here of course I am writing in the context of the stage. But I think one has to be very careful of the present vogue for music-theatre ensembles, or the 'Lea' as it is called. The first job is to examine, and

explain, the relationship between music, movement and the spoken word."

This is also at the centre of Harrison Birtwistle's new work *Orpheus*, which is virtually completed. It was originally scheduled for production at Glyndebourne outside the festival season, but the cost of mounting it will almost certainly mean that it will now be seen not in Sussex but in London.

"It's one of the most elaborate pieces of drama I know of. It is concerned with a world which is neither totally opera nor spoken theatre; there are three parallel roles, each requiring a singer, an actor and a puppet. I want those puppets as high as the proscenium arch. The action runs in three: Eurycle's death occurs three times, on every occasion seen from a different point of view; there are three versions of the death of Orpheus. At the same time I'm trying to make a fresh look at established musical forms, such as the recitative and aria, and see what new roles they can be made to accomplish."

"Oddly, it was an opera called *Orpheus* which originally brought me into contact with Peter Hall. It was commissioned by London Weekend when Humphrey Burton was working there and Peter was engaged to direct it, then came one of those all-too-frequent television administrative reshuffles and the programme was axed. That was the start of the *Orpheus* which I hope you'll see in London produced by Terry Hands. I'm glad to say that LWT paid me for it."

John Higgins

Sweet Bird of Youth
Brooklyn Academy of Music

Nothing in the theatre matters except survival—and it is becoming obvious as the century gets old that Tennessee Williams is one of the great classic stylists. The play is beautiful, poetic and moving—and it has been done exquisitely with a perfect taste for both the excesses of melodrama and the niceties of surgery.

It is surely a test for Williams's staying power that his plays, rather like those of O'Neill, often revive unexpectedly well. There is something very remarkable about Williams the second-hand hand. This time the suggestion even of sadness, even the cheap taste of some of the writing, all seemed to have been boiled away, leaving

the residue of something that looks suspiciously like genius. The story of *Sweet Bird of Youth* is almost archetypal Williams—the story of the beach boy and the queen. Chance Wayne is a young man who is actually 29, and his cheeks and his chances are unobtrusively fading—who picks up a very aging movie star who is running away from a come-hither that does appear to have returned. As the playwright puts it: when monster meets monster, one monster has to give way.

Old movie star and stud gigolo, both are monsters—but as Williams is at marvellous pains to tell us, monster may not have hearts, but do have guts. And those guts can spill over a hotel room, or a theatre stage.

The young stud has taken the movie queen to the Southern town where he was once the head of the ball. Indeed, because of his scandalous affair with the daughter of the local political boss—another monster, a monster among monsters, called Boss Finley—it is a town where he is very new news, a town that he would like to castrate him. Literally.

Christopher Walken has a kind of beauty to him, but he invests it with a decadence that recalls Baudelaire and other doomed souls. As the film star, Irene Worth, surely one of the greatest actresses in the English-speaking world, is ravaged with time, pain and the accumulated history of innumerable sadnesses. But she fights—she is indomitable. This is the rare difference between the star and the boy. She makes her agony into art—she accepts castration, with a bravery that is little more than the defiant whine of a drowned cat.

Both Miss Worth and Walken are superb in timing, in timing, in timing. *Sweet Bird of Youth* is a masterpiece of dramatic performance, but the whole play is delicately cast and balanced—I particularly commend Pat Corley as the tough politico and Cauda Dams as his diamond-crunching mistress.

Also look at the setting by Karl Eigen, which delicately suggests the timelessness of Greek myth, which presumably the playwright also, at one level, meant to evoke. This production is said not to be Broadway bound, and here is just for two weeks. They must be joking. New York Times News Service.

London debuts

David Cottam is one of those very many guitarists who can play with reasonable competence yet inspire no further curiosity about their potential. They are deft, produce a good sound—rather wily in Mr Cottam's case—and impart at least some animation to the rhythm, but no greater attainment seems possible in this unheroic majority. Part of the trouble, as reviewers frequently and fruitlessly complain, lies in the threadbare repertoire, and welcome though Mr Cottam's Dowland lute pieces were, Luteuxude's E minor Suite was tuneful only in an exceedingly modest way. Part of the trouble, as reviewers frequently and fruitlessly complain, lies in the threadbare repertoire, and welcome though Mr Cottam's Dowland lute pieces were, Luteuxude's E minor Suite was tuneful only in an exceedingly modest way. Part of the trouble, as reviewers frequently and fruitlessly complain, lies in the threadbare repertoire, and welcome though Mr Cottam's Dowland lute pieces were, Luteuxude's E minor Suite was tuneful only in an exceedingly modest way.

Yet eight Lessons by Aguado were more impressive, not without presenting in public, and a group of Studies by Segovia had only a little more weight. Conventional Hispanicisms by Turina and Moreno-Torres were so empty as to defy comment

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Recycling waste

مكتبة من الأصل

a Special Report

Act could lead to valuable salvage

by Pamela Buonaventura

Two pieces of legislation have been enacted in 1975, both of which in theory will promote the recycling of waste materials and contribute to the raising of environmental standards. Unfortunately, as is so often the case these days, the emphasis is still on the "in theory".

The Control of Pollution Act 1974 is arguably one of the most important pieces of legislation to have reached the statute books this century—with its provisions for surveying wastes, for water pollution, for imposing standards on disposal and for promoting the recycling of materials. The first publication of the Bill was followed by the famous but, it seems, forgotten "war on waste" green paper which pointed out the balance of payments advantages of recycling waste materials.

Yet, many of the provisions in the two laws have been deferred because of the enormous costs to local authorities of carrying them out. Money will be available only after site licensing and this only by or very soon after April 1976 because "the Government have formed the view that the need to strengthen controls over the disposal of waste on the private sector."

No site may be operated without a licence; but before a local authority can grant a licence, it needs to have the site surveyed to ensure that it conforms with environmental standards; and, before it can refuse a licence to a private scrap operator, it is going to have to be sure its own refuse tips meet the standards it wishes to impose on the private sector.

It is also desirable that the tipping of certain toxic and hazardous wastes should be discontinued. Past experience shows that legislation can play a big part in making industry dispose of, or

recycle, its hazardous wastes more safely. If we make the point that in 1972 it received 10 million gallons of wastes but, after the passing of the 1972 Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, there was an immense jump in the volume received to 34 million gallons, and this year, the figure is running at 42 million gallons.

If the severe penalties threatened in the Control of Pollution Act for disposing of toxic waste in unacceptable ways were introduced, not only would industry be forced to have certain of these wastes treated but there would also be the possibility of recovering valuable materials. According to Mr. David Thomas, joint managing director of Re-Chem International, a waste processing company, they recover about 100 to 200 tons of nickel, 300 tons of copper and small quantities of mercury, gold and so on from the small volumes they are processing. Much more could be done.

Nor has it been thought possible to introduce the Control of Pollution Act provisions allowing local authorities to reclaim or buy waste for reclamation because again these would cost money. The balance of payments advantages from reclaiming materials seem to have been forgotten.

There is one area of reclamation in which government action would seem to be imminent and that is waste paper. An advisory group on waste paper recycling was set up by the Waste Management Advisory Council because waste paper was recognized as an obvious commodity for urgent action.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman, now Minister of State, Department of Industry, has said that the "How to Make Waste Pay" confer-

ence in November: "The group has been studying ways and means of reducing the peaks and troughs of demand, and has approved a report (including a number of recommendations)... I am hopeful of obtaining necessary approvals soon for some measures which should help to deal with this problem." Such measures are likely to include government money to finance the storage of excess stocks of waste paper in periods of a slump in demand.

The other piece of legislation enacted this year, the Health and Safety at Work, etc., Act 1974, has far-reaching implications for the industry to protect its workers. Its relevance to the recycling of wastes is that its requirements impinge on reclamation activities which have formerly in many cases not involved a great deal of attention to the health and safety of employees.

The Act requires companies to promote the contents of any material they are handling, what may happen to it, and what it is safe to do with it; they must ensure the safety of their workers and inform any company to whom they supply a material of its characteristics.

People connected with the scrap trade have argued that the Act will render some forms of recovery uneconomical and quote the example of battery lead reclamation. What is more likely is that the provisions of the Act will be ignored and there will continue to be the occasional industrial accident.

The recent zinc waste accident which put the entire workforce of a metal reclaiming company in hospital suffering from arsenic gas should ring the alarm bell for any company considering recycling waste materials. It is essential to know

what is being handled and how it will react under certain conditions. The Health and Safety Commission, the body which, with the various inspectorates, is responsible for this legislation, has put out circulars on various matters and what should and should not be done with them.

Finally, the impact of European Economic Community thinking on waste matters cannot in future be ignored. A recommendation put out by the Council of Ministers sets out broad guidelines for member states to follow to ensure that the burden of controlling pollution is placed on the polluter. If the "polluter pays" principle is followed through, it can help to promote the recycling of materials.

A specific example of how this type of thing works is the German grant and levy system on oil. New oil carries a levy which is transferred to a central fund; the fund is used to promote the recycling of used oil. In West Germany 90 per cent of lubricating oils are recycled. In the United Kingdom the proportion is only 8 per cent.

The council suggests that the use of subsidies to aid polluters to meet control requirements should be confined to two circumstances: first, transitional aid may be paid; second, aid granted as part of regional, industrial or agricultural policy may be used for pollution control.

The aims of the council recommendation on waste oils accord broadly with the provisions of the Control of Pollution Act. Details of the implementation of the relevant part of the Act are still being considered. The directive allows a two-year implementation period from its date of formal notification originally set for spring 1975.



Cardboard boxes arrive for reprocessing at Davidson Radcliffe Secondary-Fibres, Bolton.

Any old anchors?

by Patrick O'Leary

Few articles the world discards cannot be turned into something useful. Even sewage is a source of methane gas and soil conditioner.

A glance through advertisements in *Materials Reclamation Weekly* shows a demand for rags, batteries, lead dross, scrap platinum, nismuth, old cookers, tangles, jute, anchors, aircraft engine parts, and mercury, as well as more conventional scrapyard junk such as brass and copper.

The list of useful rubbish is constantly being extended; it was a long time before the 50 million tons of slag and shale dumped every year by Britain's ironworks and coal mines became a source of raw material for road-building and concrete manufacture.

But however useful waste may be, the market for it depends on how easily it can be collected, processed and sold. As one speaker addressing a conference on the subject in September commented: "It is no good asking you to recover a method if you cannot sell the product."

His view was echoed by a representative of a chemical processing firm at the recent War on Waste conference at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. He said: "We are involved in the catching of petroleum tank-cleaning residues. A product of this process is a fine dust comprising pure iron oxide from which several pounds a ton can be recovered. Unfortunately, transport charges to the nearest steel plant considerably exceed several pounds a ton. We dispose of this material in landfill."

The easiest, most efficient use of waste is where an industry consumes its own; for example, the glassworks at which broken pieces are smashed, the farm on which compost returns to the land. When outside agents have to be called in, difficulties arise through the need to guarantee a steady bulk supply of the right waste, and the costly and unpleasant work of sorting it. Britain has started an experiment in Huddersfield, in cooperation with the local authority, to get households to sort their own rubbish. Householders are supplied with a stand holding four bags of different colours to hold paper, rags, glass and in cans. The bags are collected and taken to a warehouse.

Paper is the most familiar rule of salvage. It has been estimated that 80 per cent of paper disposed of in office buildings is reclaimed; and many families contribute their weekly bundle of newspapers.

Unhappily, the recycling business can be cyclical. Lost wastepaper is converted into packaging material, and this has become a depressed market. But it has been suggested that developing countries could provide a growing market for such paper. Some experiments have been made with recycling wastepaper in the Indian sheep, which seemed to nibble their way through government papers without visible discomfort. One man's slump is another man's opportunity.

In the first half of this year some 2,500,000 tons of tanker tonnage was sent to shipbreakers' yards. At the other end of the metal scrap scale a Canadian charity has collected two million ring-tops from beverage cans.

In Britain more than half the total raw materials used in the crude steel production consists of scrap iron and steel. The National Engineering Laboratory has produced a method of turning into metal bars metal trimmings produced by cutting tools.

One of the difficulties about reclaiming metal is that modern processes require more stringent quality standards than before even scrap materials. It has been calculated as much as 400,000 tonnes of scrap tin, steel and aluminium could be recycled every year from old tin cans. Aluminium is hard to recover, in spite of Lord Beaverbrook's drive to turn sunscreens into fighters' aircraft during the last war.

Many plastics products can be melted and remoulded, in addition to their uses as almost indestructible household toys for young children. But because it is normally cheaper and easier to use new raw materials, second-hand plastics usually finish in incinerators, though even there they can help to produce steam or electricity.

Rubber and oil are two products where recycling is particularly attractive, because their disposal by dumping or burning can cause pollution. Rubber from tyres can be granulated and reconstituted for the manufacture of washers, spacers, sheeting, and backing for carpets. Lubricating oil can be re-refined.

Glass can be melted down without trouble, but it has to be clean and pure, so manufacturers prefer where possible to use their own broken products and rejects. However, waste glass of lower grades can be used in many processes, ranging from the manufacture of sandpaper to ballistics, the minute glass beads included in reflective paints. Nobody would be likely to throw away old gold, silver or platinum objects, but plenty of mercury and silver go down the sink. Tons of refined silver are produced annually from waste generated by photographic processing.

About a million cars and lorries are scrapped in Britain every year, each one representing several hundredweight of valuable and varied scrap. One answer to this problem was put forward by the Labour Party in a green paper.

This suggested owners should pay less and less motor tax as their cars grew older. The tax would disappear altogether after six years of ownership and would thus, the paper said, "encourage the car industry to build longer-lasting cars because a customer interest would be created in not buying a new car."

The green paper appeared two years ago, when it could not be foreseen that the problem would be to persuade people to buy more cars, even if it means recycling a great deal of taxpayers' money.

Anti-pollution role is just as important as the profit-making

by Ian Cooper

Apart from coal, low-grade iron ore, china clay and gas, Britain has few natural resources. And yet it is the world's fifth largest trading nation and depends totally on its ability to sell its products and services to other nations.

The economy is based on the assumption that raw materials, labour and energy can be provided at a cost low enough to make manufacturing for export commercially rewarding. In theory that may be an unattractive proposition but in practice there is no option but to accept it.

As Britain has no ultimate control over its suppliers of primary raw materials or its customers overseas, it is logical that it should manage as effectively as possible the use of the huge quantities of raw materials that it is forced to import. In some respects that function is carried out efficiently, but in others considerable quantities of potentially useful material are allowed to go to waste.

Historically, Britain has made the best use of raw materials only in times of war, but there are signs that pressures on commodity supplies and changing attitudes to finite mineral and other reserves will change that.

In the metals industries reclaimed or "secondary" materials account for a substantial proportion of the total materials treated. Supplies of reclaimed materials are generally well organized and responsive to market movements. They are in no sense marginal.

Well over a third of Britain's copper consumption is provided from material recovered in various ways from scrap. In the case of aluminium the proportion is more than a quarter and for lead nearly two thirds. More than 20 per cent of the zinc used is derived from secondary sources and among precious metals the recovery rate for platinum is 58 per cent.

The balance of these metals is not necessarily lost. There is a time lag of perhaps 20 or 30 years or more built into the system, for considerable quantities of metal are tied up in plant, equipment and buildings whose useful life may be several decades.

A certain amount of material is almost impossible to recover for reasons that may be technical, economic or a combination of the two. Large quantities of zinc, for example, are used in galvanizing and it seems

unlikely that the metal could ever be recovered at a profit.

Profit is the driving force of reclamation, just as in any other industry. As prices of raw materials have risen, the greater has been the incentive to recover more. Metals contained in residues from industrial processes, rather than in the form of physical scrap, are recovered, although some of the technology involved is rendered uneconomical when international demand pulls the price of copper, nickel, zinc or whatever below the level at which it is worth recovering.

Fluctuations in the world commodity markets apply to both primary and secondary materials, but the latter are the more vulnerable because they arise throughout the country rather than in a small number of mines or quarries. Collection and transport costs are therefore crucial to the economics of reclamation and in any material decline a material will cease to be economic to collect long before it becomes uneconomical to process.

Another difficulty is the extent to which consumers regard reclaimed materials as marginal. In some sectors secondary raw materials are looked upon as a topping-up medium. A combination of the oil crisis and a temporary shortage of plant

capacity brought reclaimed material into prominence in the plastics industry 18 months ago.

Because primary material was not available in the quantities required, plastics manufacturers turned to large tonnages of secondary material. But when the difficulties of primary production had been overcome they resorted to the use of so-called virgin raw materials and a usable material became waste once more.

The same can also be true of paper manufacture. The higher qualities of reclaimed waste paper are known as pulp substitutes—which is exactly what they are, unless the price of primary wood-pulp falls below a predetermined level. At that point the recycled material is vulnerable to rejection, but somewhat revolutionary movements in the international market for primary raw materials are reducing that vulnerability.

In the paper and board industry particularly, there is a trend towards greater dependence on reclaimed material. Just over two million tonnes is recycled to the industry in Britain, but the aim is to achieve a long-term coordinated increase of at least a million tonnes a year.

That would represent a 50 per cent improvement between 1974 and the early 1980s and depends not

merely on the collection of greater quantities of waste paper but on investment in plant to use it and, most important, the development of stable markets to consume the product.

There is no point in reclaiming anything unless there is a market for it—a fact made evident to the many thousands of householders in Britain who saved their old newspapers for collection. As the pace of industrial activity slowed, demand for paper and board declined, and with it the requirement for paper and board-making raw materials.

The challenge is to reorient the position of reclaimed fibre in the raw material balance of paper and board manufacturing so that fluctuations in demand are less violent and greater equilibrium can be brought to collection. A stockpile of waste paper could be built up during periods of low demand, to be drawn on when the market revives and when prices of raw materials begin to rise. Such a scheme is being studied by a group representing both government and industry.

Recycling has another important role to play in overcoming difficulties of disposal and pollution. If heavy metals are reclaimed rather than discharged as effluent they constitute an asset rather than a pollutant. If clean waste paper is collected

separately by a local authority it represents a cash-earning asset. Furthermore, development work is in progress on the use of mixtures of soiled paper and plastics as fuel additives in coal-fired power stations.

An old car, refrigerator, cooker or other household durable has a value in being recycled, not merely in terms of the raw materials it releases for reuse, but because it will not despoil the countryside or provide an expensive disposal burden for the local authority.

There is an economic value in recycling, and a social value. Britain is fast developing a detailed appreciation of the economic function, but the implications of the social value are less distinct.

The author is editor, *Materials Reclamation Weekly*.

Oil that can't afford to be mist



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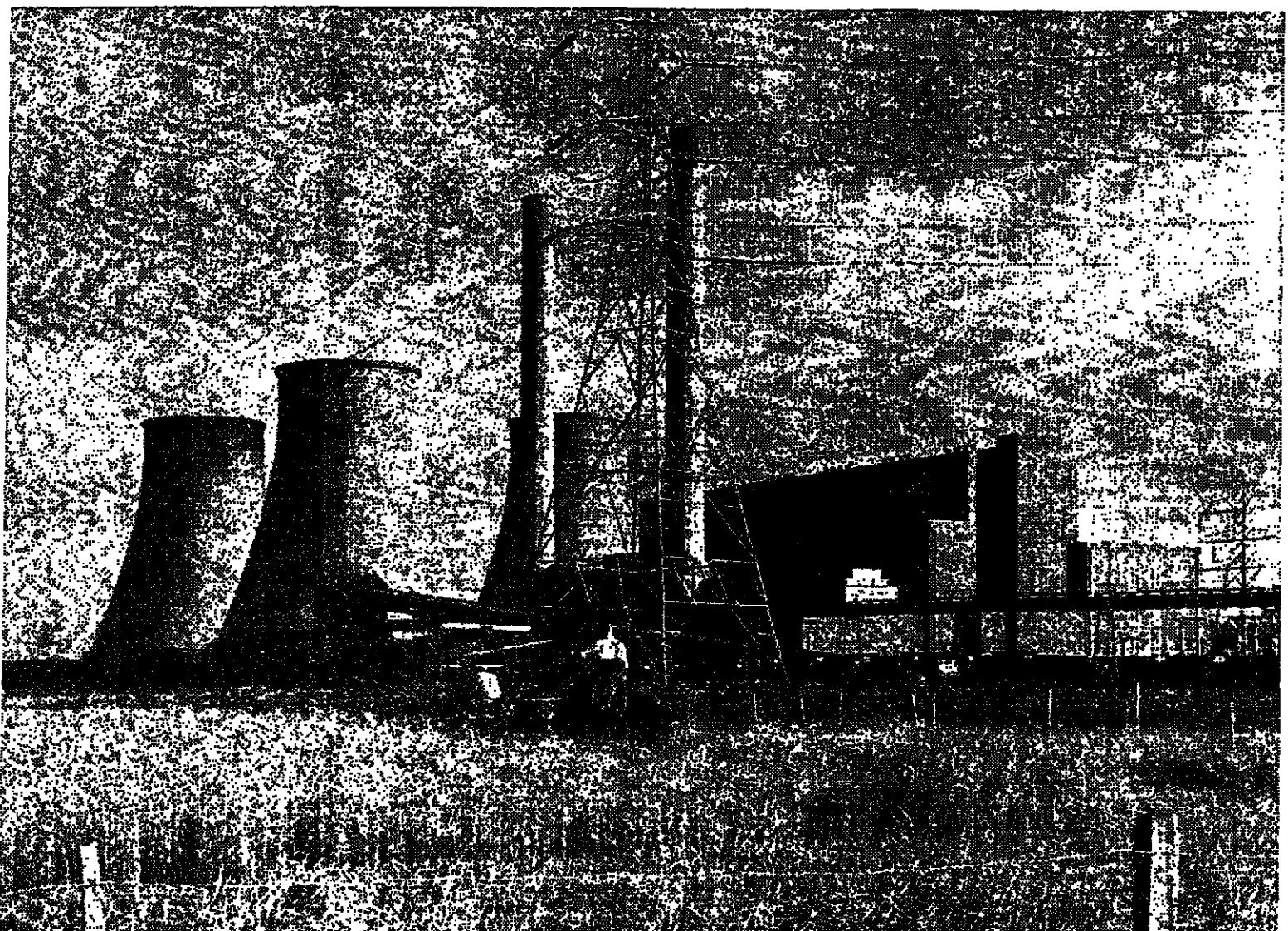
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Harvesting wheat on land reclaimed with pulverized fuel ash at Connah's Quay power station, Wales.

Elevating the use of old rubbish to the status of a profession

by Edward Townsend

"The proper management of waste produced by our advanced industrial and consumer societies in a manner which is environmentally safe, efficient and economic, and which at the same time recovers resources that would otherwise be wasted, is one of the more stimulating and intellectually demanding problems of this decade."

That is the view of Redland Park, one of Britain's leading waste disposal and reclamation companies, as stated in a paper delivered to last year's Cantor Lectures of the Royal Society of Arts.

It added that most of us do not yet fully realize that modern waste management is a profession where the span of interest must include microbiology, hydrogeology and hydrochemistry, chemical process engineering, climatology, transportation, economics, mechanical handling engineering.

lection and use of the rubbish spewed out in ever-increasing quantities by industrial society to the status of a profession implies that man has at last become aware of the pressing need to conserve and recycle his raw materials.

It is an awakening that has been increased by the growing scarcity and price of basic commodities yet the technology necessary to enable the full use of waste is still in its infancy. And the development of such technology is dependent upon the economics of scale.

Consequently there are a number of instances where the technology for reclamation is available but the economic incentive is not.

Such a case is the reuse of glass, one of the oldest materials, made from simple, cheap, plentiful ingredients—sand, limestone and soda ash.

It has not yet been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the glass makers that recovery of glass containers on a major scale is economic, yet the techniques for doing so have been long established.

Simply stated, the process involves throwing the crushed waste glass or cullet back into the glass furnace.

To give bottles and jars proper strength the glass mixture must have a cullet content of at least 10 per cent. This is provided basically from glass companies' own factory waste but in theory there is no ceiling on the amount of waste glass that can be used and much of the glass is recycled in Britain.

However, the use of foreign cullet creates problems. Mixing green and clear glass will effect the colour of the final product; the chemical composition of glass varies from company to company; and contaminants like bottle tops can damage furnaces.

The techniques also exist for using cullet in a variety of other ways. Waste glass goes into glass fibre insulation, into the paint used for road signs, abrasives, tiles and road surfacing materials.

One commodity which has been the subject of much public pressure on recycling is paper and, again, the technology for turning old newspapers, books and packaging into reusable material is in existence.

At present, however, the techniques in operation for reclaiming waste paper tend to degrade the original material and as a result recycled paper has to be mixed with virgin fibre in many cases. Because of this drop in quality, waste paper is used mostly in the production of paper and board for packaging and hardly at all in the making of fine printing papers.

Paper can be reconstituted quite easily. After foreign matter is taken out and the grades of waste separated, the paper is washed to a wet pulp, and ink bleached out with chemicals and the material fed into the paper machine.

With Britain relying heavily for its newsprint supplies on imports, the pressures have been great for the stuff to be recycled and there are now some deinking plants in operation. At least one national newspaper uses recycled newsprint.

Research is continuing both in Britain and in the United States on methods of taking off the ink from a sheet of paper without first having to repulp so that most of the paper-making process can be by-passed.

Of all the packaging materials, plastic has been perhaps the one to bear the brunt of criticisms from the environmentalists. Total plastics packaging waste in five years' time could be 800,000 tonnes a year in Britain, nearly all of it thermoplastic material and therefore suitable for almost endless recycling.

On the direct recycling front, machines that can convert plastic film, bottles and other products into granules are in operation but the difficulty of recognizing the large number of polymers and compounds in a pile of plastic waste restricts their use to the plastic manufacturers as a means of eliminating in-factory waste.

So the potential for plastics is indirect recycling where the demands for separation and cleanliness may not be so high. In Europe a number of machines are now in operation which, it is claimed, can produce items like shoe soles, bicycle saddles, domestic utensils and toys from a variety of thermoplastic wastes.

In another development plastic bags, mixed with 50 per cent wood, are being used to make a new type of building board, while in one Japanese city domestic plastic waste is turned into flower pots, pipes and poles.

In processes like these, thermoplastic wastes are first need to be shredded and mixed followed by the addition of fillers such as wood chips. The resulting material is then compacted into granules before feeding into an injection moulding machine, extruder or press.

The British Plastics Federation's book, *Plastics and the Environment*, published last year, it was readily foreseen that such plants could be set up, initially served by the reclamation industry "but which in the long run could create a demand for the salvage of plastics wastes by local authorities provided that a stable price structure for both product and raw material had been established."

Materials such as steel swarf and curbing oils which are dirty and difficult to handle can be recycled and produce a major financial saving.

Mr F. V. Mills, managing director of the reclamation firm of Christy & Norris, points out that swarf discarded from a machine tool is coated with oil to the extent of between 40 and 60 gallons per ton.

The process of recovering this oil is to pulverize the swarf to one inch chips and then feed it into a centrifuge which spins off the surplus liquid and deposits the dry chips onto a conveyor ready for collecting by a scrap merchant.

The oil is subsequently heated, then passed into a centrifugal oil purifier and finally held for a few hours in a sterilizing tank before it is ready for re-use. Although cutting fluids containing mineral oils and soluble oils cannot be reclaimed, it is reckoned that

up to 95 per cent of such oil can be recovered by re-refining and purifying. One final example of seemingly useless by-product that in fact has many valuable applications is P (pulverized fuel ash), the created in coal-fired power station boilers.

About 75 per cent of P is carried away in the flue gases as a dry fine powder which can be recovered using electrostatic mechanical precipitators.

The Central Electric Generating Board has produced a library of technical literature and films on uses of PFA. These include compacting it for use as a load-bearing fill (mass quantities were used in building of the M5 motorway) and, when mixed with Portland cement, as a strongly hardening material.

The latter has found its way into roads and bridges has been in use for years at the CEGB's power stations.

Research on a shoestring

by Pamela Buonaventura

Much of the research into the recycling of materials in Britain is being done on a shoestring in government laboratories, universities and colleges. It is a tribute to the people involved, considering the funds available, that so much is already being achieved.

Warren Spring Laboratory is the main national centre for the study of technical and scientific aspects, the work being sponsored by the Departments of Industry and the Environment and in some cases jointly on commissioned projects with companies. One of the most promising areas of research opening up is the recycling of household waste. Two projects—for pyrolysis (or destructive distillation of waste) and for the sorting of waste—have proceeded beyond the experimental stage.

Negotiations should be complete by the end of the year between the laboratory, the Department of the Environment, the National Research Development Corporation, the Greater London Council and industrial partners to build a larger-scale pyrolysis plant to process London's waste.

Pyrolysis involves heat treatment of the refuse in the absence of oxygen; a sterile residue is produced from which metal and inorganic constituents can be recovered. The intention of the London scheme is to produce an industrial fuel gas for sale. An ancillary fuel will be needed to start the plant; thereafter it will run on 60 per cent of the energy contained in the refuse and the other 40 per cent will be sold.

Preliminary agreement has just been reached with two other local authorities, South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear, to develop the laboratory's project for mechanical sorting of waste. This will entail a Department of the Environment contribution of about £500,000, spread over three years, and the scheme is subject to Treasury approval.

The processes involved include screening, magnetic and ballistic separation, air classification and sink/float separation. There are four products: low-grade fuel, paper and glass concentrates, and an iron-rich fraction, largely tin cans. The work is important because there is a large loss to the nation from

dumping and emissions of metals, particularly from domestic refuse (17 million tonnes a year of non-ferrous metal alone).

The laboratory this year set up a waste materials exchange to arrange partnerships between companies producing unwanted wastes and companies requiring raw materials. So far only six are known to have come into being, five available materials supplied of one wanted item found (out of 351 listed materials and 618 inquiries). A register of surplus materials has also been set up by the Production Engineering Research Association.

Subjects pertinent to the building and construction industry are studied at the Building Research Station. An important target for conservation is energy. The station is looking at district heating schemes and heat pumps. New lighting arrangements and controls are also being looked at with the intention of showing how energy can be saved.

Feasibility study on pipeline scheme

Pneumatic handling of solid waste is being monitored by the Building Research Station at the Westminster housing development using this disposal system. A system is being evolved in which refuse is pulverized before entering the pipeline; these efforts are complemented by work being done by Metal Box (Pulvermastic Division) and by the British Hydromechanics Research Association at Cranfield.

BRHA Fluid Engineering is conducting a feasibility study, on behalf of a working party formed by the Yorkshire and Humberside waste disposal authorities and the Department of the Environment, to see whether it is possible to transport waste materials in a pneumatic pipeline using capsules. Colliery spoil, fly ash from power stations and domestic refuse from South and West Yorkshire industrial areas could be used to reclaim land from the sea if the pipeline scheme were to prove economic or desirable.

The Building Research Station gives advice on the reuse of materials: re-used slag from Lankashire steel works is made into blast furnace slag, cement, suitable for large dams and marine structures; pulverized six coal-fired

power stations could replace part of the cement required for concrete oil platforms in the North Sea; and millions of tonnes of waste colliery shale and spent oil shale are available for land reclamation in the Forth and Clyde estuaries.

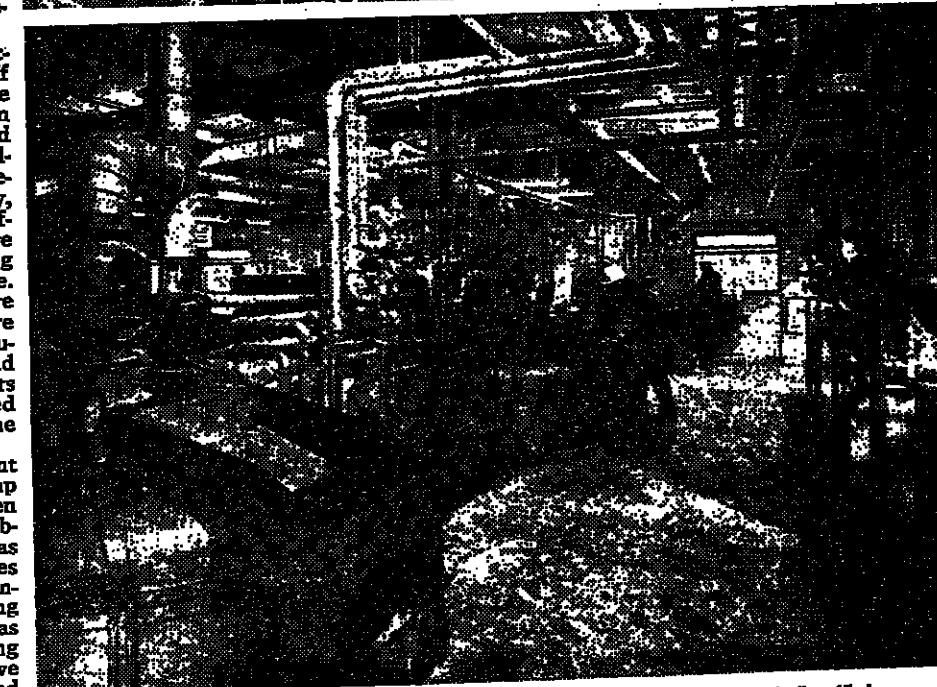
Finally, there is a great waste of materials in the building industry itself. The research station's studies have indicated that there is scope for significant savings, "in part by better methods, for example in handling... but most from people on site being made more aware of the cost of materials and the need to conserve them. To help to bring this about BRB has developed a cheap and speedy system for accounting for materials during the progress of work on site so that areas of high wastage can be identified and better control exercised."

Much research is being done in universities. The technology of reclamation in the metallurgical industries is being studied at Birmingham University minerals engineering department. The work includes projects for recovering higher proportions of metals during extraction and manufacture.

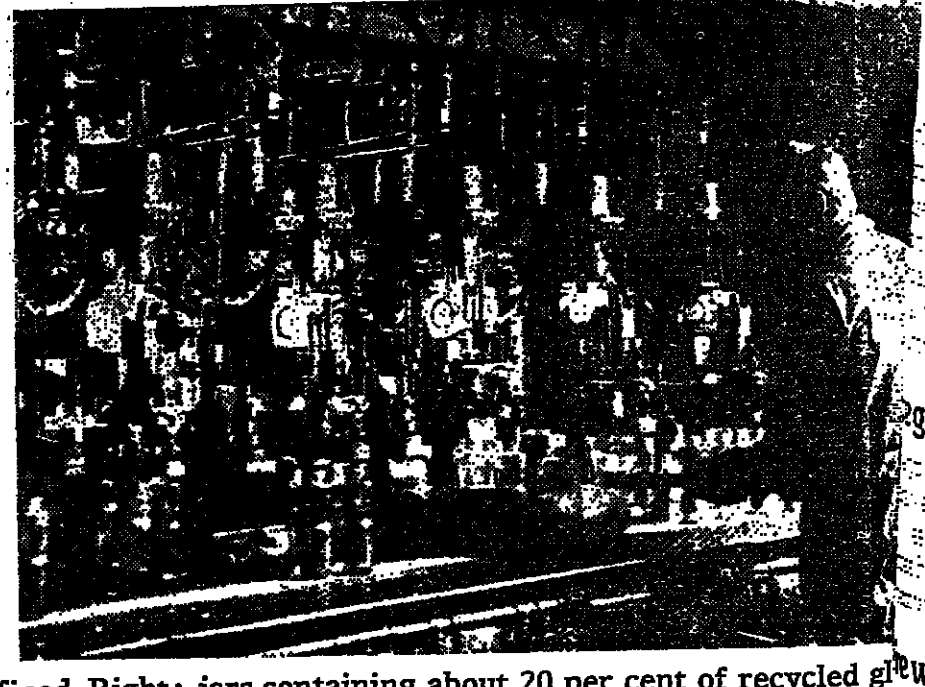
A new type of furnace has been designed for incinerators; it reduces the amount of valuable non-ferrous metal, such as copper, at present lost in slags. New uses for waste are being developed so that it becomes a commodity in its own right. The Russian example of producing a glass ceramic from blast furnace slag is being followed. Other studies are aimed at converting mining spoil into building and road-making aggregate.

Research in several directions is going on at Cardiff University: uses for waste glass; protein production from various wastes; and pyrolysis. Queen Mary College, London, has a three-year study under way, financed in 1974 by the Wolfson Foundation, to explore the feasibility of recycling paper and plastics waste. Mathematical models are being constructed to measure not only marketing, manufacturing, distribution and other economic constraints in the industries concerned but also factors such as the national interest.

The Waste Management Advisory Council set up after the Government's Green Paper, *Waste on Waste*, published in September 1974, has several specialist committees studying ferrous and non-ferrous metals, packaging and containers. It has another group concentrating on economic studies to give advice on the costs and benefits of waste management to society as a whole. A first priority activity is expected next month.



Left: part of a production platform where industrial oil is re-refined. Right: jars containing about 20 per cent of recycled glass working on leave the forming machine red hot. Top left: reclaimed aluminium—including extruded sections and offcuts. Top right: equipment used to heat acrylic scrap and obtain valuable monomer.



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How to tap the energy in aluminium

Two of society's most commonly used materials—glass and aluminium—are also among the most easy to recycle and both have come under increasing pressure from the conservation and reclamation lobby.

Aluminium, still a fairly modern product, has found its way not only into packaging, cars and buildings but also into a wide variety of everyday domestic items. The snag, and the one seized upon by the protesters, is that to produce the primary metal requires vast amounts of energy.

Glass, on the other hand, is one of the oldest forms of packaging and consumes no more energy at the production stage than any of its rivals. The protest, based on the fact that bottles and jars are not damaged when opened, is against the waste caused by the trend of recent years towards greater use of non-returnable containers.

Commercial reclaiming of these products from the user has been attempted in Britain and two case studies give an interesting insight into the advances in technology that have been achieved and, particularly in glass recycling, the problems of waste collection.

First, aluminium. The

company which claims to be the leading recycler in Britain and one of the largest in Europe is International Aluminium Company, Alcoa.

Although aluminium has been reclaimed from scrap for about 60 years, Intal was one of the first companies when it was set up in 1932 to produce aluminium alloys to specification from recycled materials.

Aluminium has the advantage of being an "energy bank" as the energy invested in its original production can in effect be recycled again and again. Recycled aluminium consumes only 5 per cent of the amount needed to make the primary molten metal.

Intal, which competes today with about 20 other heavy aluminium recyclers, has a capacity of about 55,000 tonnes a year of recycled ingot and molten metal and claims a 20 per cent share of the British market.

About half the company's output goes into foundries serving the car and commercial vehicle industry, the remainder to general engineering, office equipment and consumer goods.

from a variety of sources including plastic making extruded sections and tubing and other producing products like pistons, caravans, greenhouses and outdoor furniture.

It also accepts old pots and pans, domestic appliances, cars, lorries, aeroplanes, ships and even rocket nose cones as well as soft drink cans, milk bottle tops and food containers.

After pretreatment, the bulk of the scrap is fed into large well furnaces and the company also operates rotary furnaces and an electric induction furnace for certain types of raw materials and to produce special alloys. In some instances, the scrap has to be mixed with virgin aluminium and alloying elements such as copper, silicon and magnesium.

Intal's research and development activities over the years have resulted in a number of innovations in scrap recovery plant and machinery. These have included a swarf dryer for removing oil and moisture from machinery and turnings, one of the chief sources of aluminium for recycling. Sixty-three dryers have been sold in the past decade by the company's licensee including five to Russia.

The company, which operates plants at Aylesbury and Mowthorpe in Birmingham, has adopted a policy of accepting domestic scrap such as food containers and foil tops only from recognized charities and authorized groups which have to make their own arrangements for delivery to the plant. Depending on the amount, Intal's payment for scrap is between 5p and 7p a pound of metal.

The price paid for scrap is perhaps the most crucial factor affecting the collection and recycling of glass bottles. Last year Redfearn National Glass demonstrated that reclaiming glass containers in isolation from other household refuse was too expensive.

The York-based company, in conjunction with the local authority, delivered to 1,021 houses in a district of the city two paper sacks every two weeks over two months and asked housewives to segregate clear and coloured glass.

It was estimated that during the period, the sample houses would have discarded five tonnes of glass waste a week but in fact only 1.5 tonnes each week were collected. The cost per tonne of the collected glass was £35.30. Redfearn paid the prevail-

ing price for cullet (crushed glass) of £5 a tonne for coloured glass and £7 for clear which left a deficit of £30.30 a tonne.

Redfearn reported that initial response from those taking part in the experiment extended from good to enthusiastic. At the start the amount of glass collected was high, possibly because of the advanced publicity, but later both the quantity and quality deteriorated. In some cases, bottle tops had been left in the sacks, a serious contaminant for glass furnaces, and waste other than glass also found its way into the sacks.

The argument that a deposit will encourage more bottles to be returned and alleviate the litter problem was to a certain degree disproved when it was found that returnable bottles, some carrying 5p deposits, made up a significant percentage of the collected glass. In the eight weeks 200 milk bottles, 1,000 beer and cider bottles and 1,500 soft drink bottles were thrown away. In week six alone, deposits on returnable bottles put into the sacks totalled £12.

Redfearn admitted afterwards that the scheme had been disappointing but felt that it had provided invaluable guidelines for future reclamation schemes.

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Could recycling used metal containers save Britain £13½ million a year in imports? Metal Box are helping to find out.

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1. We've given you a better can — with less metal.

The typical can is made out of steel and tin—both costly. Over the last fifteen years, we've developed cans that do an even better job, but use 50% less tin and 30% less steel.

Prices have risen, true. But they'd have risen a lot more, without our development work.

2. We're working on even bigger savings.

We can only improve the old-style can just so far. So we've helped develop and introduce a completely new kind of can—drawn out of solid metal and made in two pieces instead of three—that weighs about 10% less than even the most advanced traditional can. At the moment, it's mainly used for drinks—but we're working on a version for food.

3. Others preach recycling. We're investing in it.

Recycling used cans is a beautifully simple idea.

The only trouble is that nobody knows whether it's an economic one—once all the costs of collection, separation and processing are taken into account.

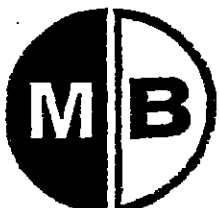
So we're investing time, effort and money in finding out.

Together with the British Steel Corporation and Batchelor Robinson, we've formed a company called Material Recovery Limited—to recover cans from domestic waste for subsequent de-tinning in order to make the resultant materials available for re-use.

If it proves economic, the UK might be able to recycle no less than 400,000 tonnes of tinplate a year—and save £13½ million a year on the import bill.

The truth is, that the more efficient use of resources has always been a major concern at Metal Box—whether we're making containers in metal, paper board or plastic.

Could that be one of the factors behind the doubling of our sales (over a third of them overseas) to £455 million in the last five years?



Metal Box Limited

[illegible]

Finding the true common ground in politics that satisfies the wishes and hopes of the people

If he wishes the doctrine of the common ground to become a new lodestar for the conduct of British politics he must spell out the obligations it imposes on Conservatives.

Sir Keith and the Common Ground. *The Times* leader, December 8.

Yes, I agree with *The Times* contention. Release from the compulsion to seek the middle ground—that compromise between politicians, unrelated to the aspirations of the people, and moving since the last war compulsively leftward—is only the first step toward the evolution of a new common political culture.

This common political culture—this common ground approach—should, I argue, be based firmly on the aspirations of the people; it should be common ground between the people and those politicians who seek to serve their aspirations, rather than to impose values or purposes on them. *The Times* leader asserting that we too would have to accept the discipline of the common ground is entirely correct; but the implication that this would impose perhaps backward renunciations upon us is based on an image of symmetry between the parties. There was and is no symmetry

in the positioning of the two parties round the middle ground—and their relation to the common ground.

During the whole postwar period, Socialists made the running—in values and criteria—while we were dragged along in their wake, sometimes protesting, sometimes trying to convince ourselves and others that this was what we had intended anyway.

Only consider the ideological imperatives with which Socialists are imbued, obsessed, lumbered—state ownership for its own sake, regardless of the results; imposed equality, regardless of the repercussions. Neither reflects the aspirations of the people. Neither is latent in society. Both distort purposes and policy away from the aspirations of the people. We have no such ideological imperatives. We do not seek to thrust values and objectives down the throats of the people. We are less likely therefore to have purposes unshared with the people to abandon in our search for the common ground.

Certainly we need to accept obligations. As *The Times* leader suggests—obligations to identify the broad aspirations of the people and to choose

policies that, given the point of departure, will be likely to satisfy those aspirations. But the implication that we will necessarily have to off-load cherished Tory shibboleths does not follow.

The first step is to jettison the ideological ballast we took on board in the forties—the concept that the state can solve everything. We are not "state engineers" though we accept that it will take time to find our way back to a less state-dominated society.

It is indeed likely that Socialists will be forced to demonstrate the hollowness of their own panaceas and the relevance of our insights: state ownership to provide costly but illusory job security on their side; profit, wealth-creation and enterprise on ours. Differentials will reassess themselves; state spending will have to be cut; taxation will increasingly afflict all wage earners. Socialists will be forced towards the common ground, eating their own words. We shall feel more at home on it, at that early stage of disorientation.

But *The Times* is right to stress that liberation from our obsession with the middle ground is only the beginning of wisdom. The subsequent explo-

ration and elaboration of common ground will not be an act, but a process, and a continuing process at that. It entails starting from reality through diagnosis to prescription in the light of the people's aspirations, instead of in the light of dogma and compromise with dogma. We are, because of our very lack of dogma, inherently nearer to the common ground than Socialists are. Socialists have, by and large, worked from a closed system of ideas, with a final destination in mind, differing over means and rate of progress.

Unlike Socialists, we are not utopians or social engineers. Nor do we have any golden age towards which we should direct our policies as we rid ourselves of ideas which have been tried and found wanting. It is not a matter of retracing our steps to 1945 or 1949 or whenever we went astray, but rather of exploring a way forward to where we could be had we not strayed.

We do not claim that all the faults lay on the Socialist side. Socialists have no monopoly of the insight that the kernel of society has a kernel of truth. It is rather that socialism has come to provide a plausible

rationalization for a mood of unreality, a belief that we can enjoy the fruits of change without coming to terms with its imperatives. That government armed solely with good intentions can solve problems that really stem from the nature of man and from the inescapable choices inherent in community life—that the state, regarded for most of human history as the main enemy of freedom, will suddenly become its certain guarantor simply by an act of will.

Socialism or socialism did not invent the new and unprecendented problem of maintaining economic efficiency under conditions of full political democracy. It is rather that they are one of the manifestations of them. Socialism as we have come to know it, has been tried in one form or another over a third of the world, and nowhere has it proven itself.

But to disprove and eventually dismantle socialism is not in itself a solution to the many problems which socialism grew up to answer, only one precondition. Just as we "monetarists" insist that getting the money supply right is a guarantee of economic success, but is just one *conditio sine qua non* out of many, some

known, some still to be encountered, so our release from the middle ground compulsion and from Socialist doctrine is just one step towards addressing ourselves to the problems of the last quarter of the century, our post-imperial age.

In subsequent speeches and essays, I hope to deal in greater detail with the search for common ground in a range of sectors. I am reasonably confident that the sharp divisions between socialists and non-socialists will diminish as we draw conclusions from our experience of the past 30 years, the difference between promise and performance. That this common ground is beginning to emerge, that some voices in the Labour camp are more resolutely critical than ours, is an observable fact. How we build on it depends on us. But we shall not allow false symmetry to hobble us, for to do so would be to fail to draw the main lesson from our obsession with the middle ground. We shall move forward, but when we learn, we learn well.

Sir Keith Joseph

The author is economic adviser to Mr Thatcher and a member of the Shadow Cabinet.
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What going home will mean to Mrs Sakharova

At one o'clock this afternoon Mrs Elena Sakharova will receive the Nobel Peace Prize on her husband's behalf in the Grand Hall of Oslo University. She will deliver a 10-minute speech of thanks, which will feature an appeal to the Soviet and other governments to free all their political prisoners, and make a special appeal on behalf of the Sakharovs' close friend, Sergey Kovalyov, presently a standing trial for possessing a copy of *The Gulag Archipelago* and for helping Amnesty International. Then, after a few days' rest in Paris, she will return to Moscow to resume her work and her support for his social work defending people persecuted for political reasons in the Soviet Union.

Thus her four-month stay in the West, which began because of her need for an eye operation only to be prolonged and transformed by the award of the Nobel Prize on October 9, will come to a fittingly climactic end. But the real importance of the prize, from the Sakharovs' point of view, is the chance it will give them to work more effectively for human rights, and by the same token the problem posed to the Soviet authorities by having another dissident Nobel Prize winner in their midst, as desirable to the western media and as untouchable by the KGB as was Solzhenitsyn before his expulsion early in 1974.

Already the Soviet Government has reacted angrily to the BBC showing in Monday's *Panorama* of film interview with Dr Sakharov, shot with some difficulty in Moscow by Tony Summers, an experienced BBC producer but an inexperienced cameraman. They have threatened to withdraw the licence of the BBC correspondents in Moscow and to cancel previously agreed arrangements for BBC filming.

While the *Panorama* interview was going out, Mrs Sakharova was spending her last evening in Rome, having supper with a few friends and making some alterations to her speech for today, which her husband had just telephoned from Moscow. She told me she was a little nervous about today's ceremony, but more worried about what was happening to her friend Mr Kovalyov, whom she feels is suffering because of his connection with her family, and about the future of her children.

She did not say that I was the most moving mother in the world, but if I heard that

my children had got permits to leave Russia and that I would never see them in my again, my main reaction would be one of relief."

Another supper guest was Sasha Gorlov, whose name appeared in the western press in 1971, when he was beaten up by the KGB. His wife had been in the KGB for weeks for the basis of some sheet carbon paper found in her paper basket at work. She showed, of course, that she had been typing "subversive material, and until the case was eventually allowed to grate, they were without a desk."

It is such people that Sakharovs have tried to help. The number of people in the USSR imprisoned for political reasons is probably not less than 10,000, but the number of people persecuted in official bodies and so on is much greater. Referring to the dossier in which her family in seven people in two rows of the Sakharovs said she had been eventually released, and that she had been assigned to the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. All that was a pity, she said, was the sign of Mr Promyslov, the man who suggested distinguished visitors abroad should stop on official calls on the mayor he signed this paper.

She also told me that by the agreement negotiated by Mr Harold Wilson last year, which gave the Soviet Union amounts of credit at interest rates. It is her interest rates that she improved relations, but she said that the development of human rights, and that should not distinguish between peace at the international level and individual liberty in the USSR.

Mrs Sakharova knows the award of the Nobel Prize to her husband was controversial, because of the apparent lack of any contribution by her to the improvement of international relations. She believes that the struggle for human rights is as important as the struggle for peace, and speech today will reflect this view.

Nicholas Beth

Britain can still play a positive world role in human rights

On December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, granting equal and inalienable rights to all people, whatever their religion, race, sex, was approved at the United Nations General Assembly. Human Rights Day this year comes at a moment when the two Covenants drawn up to further the Declaration—documents that are more binding, more detailed, and attempt to replace an ideal with machinery of enforcement—are on the verge of ratification.

Jamaica completed the 35 ratifications needed to bring the Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights into force at the beginning of October. Thirty-four countries have ratified the civil and political rights Covenant—the more important in terms of actual human rights in that it enforces rather than enforces deals with torture rather than housing. The thirty-fifth country to ratify is likely to be Czechoslovakia, whose Federal Assembly

formally approved the Covenant in November. Britain has ratified neither Covenant; a meeting is being held tonight at the House of Lords to discuss human rights and Britain's position.

The two Covenants, opened for signature in 1966, have been signed by more than half the world's countries. Once the thirty-fifth agreement to the civil and political Covenant is accepted, a committee of 18 independent experts will be nominated from among the ratifying countries, to set up the Human Rights Committee and determine its machinery and powers.

The British Government has said it is considering ratification, but that no decision is yet possible. There is nothing to stop the Government ratifying with reservations, as other countries have done, but it is known to be reluctant to sign anything it cannot immediately enforce. There is doubt about whether the Northern Ireland

measures conflict with the Covenants.

There is also the fact that in ratifying, Britain also speaks for its territorial dependencies, places like Hong Kong, the Solomon Islands and Gibraltar. A complicated and lengthy process ensures that the domestic law in each of these places is in line with Covenant proposals.

Human rights organizations in this country, like Amnesty International, the Minority Rights Group, and the Anti-Slavery Society have been pressing hard for ratification—with reservations if need be (Britain could exempt Northern Ireland by declaring it to be in a state of emergency). Their arguments rest on a conviction that the future of the Covenants will inevitably be moulded by the countries who sit on the first committee. As it stands, western Europe is underrepresented; a majority of members is likely to come from those countries with the poorest

record of human rights, and thus the greatest reason for making the machinery as ineffectual as possible.

Behind the discussions about ratification lies scepticism about how powerful and effective the Covenants can really be. They will provide machinery for review—every member country has to give in a report on human rights in their own country within a year of signing—and the reports will form the basis of further questions and reports. The Optional Protocol (already ratified by the 10 countries needed to bring it into force with the Covenant) also gives individuals the right to submit statements concerning the violation of human rights. But in the case of countries who have not ratified the Optional Protocol (Iran, Chile, the USSR) there is no machinery any real power?

Britain is already party to the European Convention on Human Rights, and has recognized the right of indi-

vidual petition. Would ratification of a United Nations Covenant do more than provide more paperwork and more criticism?

One answer is that membership of the European Commission is irrelevant, since what is at issue is the influence on human rights elsewhere in the world. Human rights experts add that Britain's record is not perfect (an opinion based on events in Northern Ireland) and that she is ill-placed to criticize Iran and the USSR if she is unwilling to submit herself to the same sort of scrutiny.

Mr Ben Whitaker, United Kingdom member of the Human Rights Sub-committee, points out that human rights questions have had a good year at the United Nations, and that perhaps the new committee will have more teeth than people like Iran and Chile with little interest in exercising its powers to the full.

independent observers inside the country, it considered the case serious enough to fly 16 witnesses to Geneva to give evidence.

Whether through inertia, political embarrassment or administrative difficulties, Britain has missed the chance of being one of the first 35 countries to ratify. But there is a six-month delay in the legal effectiveness of the documents, and by ratifying by the middle of next year, she could still be eligible for election to the committee.

The Covenant for Civil and Political Rights sets up for the first time international machinery which can receive complaints and take action over human rights. It would be gallingly to see the most important international treaty on human rights ever formulated shaped by countries like Iran and Chile with little interest in exercising its powers to the full.

Caroline Moorehead

Bernard Levin

Despite random bombs and deliberate bullets, hanging has no place in our society

Tomorrow the House of Commons is to debate a motion calling for the reintroduction of the death penalty for acts of terrorism. It stands in the name of Mr Ivan Lawrence, Conservative MP for Burton, and reads as follows:

To draw attention to the prevalence of terrorism and the penalties for such offences and to move that this House demands capital punishment for terrorist offences causing death.

The motion can have no legislative effect, of course; the House, in voting for or against it, will be merely expressing an opinion. But obviously the House's opinion on such a motion will itself provide powerful support for whichever cause prevails, quite apart from the evidence it would provide as to what might happen to any Bill on the subject. I hope the House will defeat the motion, and decisively.

I start with a point that I think has not so far been made in the argument. It has always been, opposed to the death penalty; but I do not think it is necessary to believe, as I do, that this would be the worst possible moment

to reintroduce it. A number of innocent people have been killed or injured in Britain in the past couple of years, by random bomb attacks; in addition there has occurred in the past few weeks the first deliberate terrorist murder of a particular individual selected in advance for what he stood for. It is clearly these attacks that have provoked the motion and will give it much of the support it attracts. But I think MPs would be wise to be very careful indeed in what they say on the subject in the debate, and even more in how they allow such considerations to affect their vote.

If they cannot see why, let them ask themselves how their indignation will appear to the people of Northern Ireland. There, the number of people killed by terrorism since the violence began is already over a thousand; and the number of injured is many thousands. What is more, the deliberate murder of individuals for their opinions or statements or positions is a horrible commonplace throughout the province, and has been for years. Could there be more devastating support for the fanatics' spurious argument that Britain does not care about the conditions, status or suffering of the people of Northern Ireland than the suggestion that years and years of law, it was always well spent, and there could be no possible question of reducing it under any new legislation. But would those in favour of re-introduction have to guess how many more innocent people will die during the period—half a year, perhaps—in which a killer particularly treasured by his gang is going through the various stages between the caution and the shed? Would they care to say that they confidently discount the likelihood that, on the day of an execution, there would be a wave of bombings that would be far worse than anything for which the execution was ordered? (To say nothing of the kidnappings that would certainly be attempted, if it is a close thing, and the attempts to bargain for the killers' lives.)

But this only touches the surface of the huge area that seems to have been left out of consideration by those calling for the death penalty. Is it to apply to women? Presumably it is, if only because of the manifest absurdity of legislation which excluded them, and the fact that some of the hardest and most cruel terrorists are women (who would obviously, if it is a close thing, not be hanged if caught and convicted). But how long would

There are other such arguments, from hard reality rather than morality, that must be considered. First, the processes of law in this country move at such a speed that many months may, and commonly do, elapse between an arrest for murder and the execution of the convicted defendant. Since much of the time taken is needed for the attainment of the greatest possible degree of certainty, both as to the facts and as to the

law, it was always well spent, and there could be no possible question of reducing it under any new legislation. But would those in favour of re-introduction have to guess how many more innocent people will die during the period—half a year, perhaps—in which a killer particularly treasured by his gang is going through the various stages between the caution and the shed? Would they care to say that they confidently discount the likelihood that, on the day of an execution, there would be a wave of bombings that would be far worse than anything for which the execution was ordered? (To say nothing of the kidnappings that would certainly be attempted, if it is a close thing, and the attempts to bargain for the killers' lives.)

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it be before the wave of emotion that is carrying re-introduction ahead of it reversed itself, and began to flow against hanging, if women began to find themselves on the drop? At first, no doubt, their sex would make no difference; but recall that the wickedly unjust hanging of Ruth Ellis provided one of the most powerful stimuli the abolitionists cause ever received from a single episode. Very soon, the revulsion against hanging women—no more rational than the longing for vengeance that forms so great a part of the new hanging lobby's case, yet no less powerful—would begin to bring the whole law on hanging into the disrepute that was the fate of the language of compromise measures that tried to make a distinction between capital and non-capital murder on grounds that could not be seriously defended in terms of law or sense.

And indeed, what is proposed would actually reintroduce that very aspect, since what is demanded is hanging only for murders committed in acts of terrorism. How is terrorism to be defined for such a purpose? And round whose neck should the rope be wound? That of the man who plants the bomb? Then what about the man who supplies

it? And the man who carries it? And the people who, however misguidedly (perhaps because they are related to the killer), give a fugitive shelter? Right down the chain there is legal responsibility—how many links of it?—and each link going to be snapped for each terrorist offence causing death?

Nor does that exhaust the anomalies inescapably embedded in the proposal to reintroduce hanging. Let us go back to my earlier question: how is terrorism to be defined in the legislation? By the motives of the killer? Apart from the dubiousness of any such principle, how are these to be established? And if not, then what is to define terrorism? The choice of method? But that takes us back to the disastrous 1957 Homicide Act. By the number of people who die in the attack? I hope no such principle will ever be admitted into our law.

All these questions will have to be answered, in hard-edged detail, in any legislation, and there are more questions that no legislation can ever answer. Presumably, even if we are to hang women, we are not to hang children. What happens to the children who plant terrorist bombs (and that is no science-fiction question, for children

have long been active in terrorist activities in Northern Ireland)? And could there be a better form of invitation to the men who direct the terrorist campaigns to use children to do the killing, than an Act of Parliament which lays down hanging for adults who do it? There is no reason to believe that the death penalty is, or would be, a deterrent to murderers. The murder-rate is high in some countries which have it, and high in some which do not; it is, similarly, low just as arbitrarily. What applies to space applies also to time: fluctuations in the murder-rate do occur (though in Britain they are commonly small), but there is no valid reason for supposing that it is usually connected with the presence or absence of a death penalty, or the frequency of its application at times when it was in existence. (The death penalty continued to exist in Northern Ireland for several years after the killings began. Was it the killings there, and then? In the case of its re-introduction now, I believe it would result in more murders, not fewer, certainly from the moment the hanging began.)

Hanging has no place in a civilized society, and I believe that it should not be restored even if none of the arguments I have presented applied, degrades those concerned with its administration, and is a society as a whole who forget the crowd round a prison gates awaiting the ping of the execution notice, the crowd on the roof of a room of a murder-trial, who patiently for the excitement of a glimpse of the accused? I problems of Northern Ireland will not be solved by hanging few killers, or many killers that matter, and one thing history of Ireland should teach us is that the kill bred from the prison grave; for every one who on the scaffold, three more step forward ready for his service.

Experience says no; reason and logic say no; the law of nature says no; morality says no; the teaching of the Bible says no; the House of Commons tomorrow, say yes? We b the death penalty a decade and we buried it because thought it right to do so, and I not seem to have been right. I hope the House of Commons tomorrow will stand against hanging.

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Do you pay investment surcharge or higher rate tax on investment income? If so, an important change in tax law could bring you big savings.

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The Times Diary

Why Australians are forced to vote

preferences as their party wishes.

Such a complex system means that counting takes a long time. While the first three or four senators in each state will be known soon after the polls close, it will take up to a month to decide the lower placings. "We're trying to get it finished by January 15," Allerton said. "If it's a close thing, we may not know who controls the Senate until then. Anyone can demand a recount, then you have to start the whole thing again."

On the fringe

Of the several fringe groups fighting for seats in the Senate, one of the most active in terms of campaigning is the Workers' Party. In spite of its name, it is to the right of the major parties, standing for lower taxes and more self-reliance. It is possibly best described as Post-Industrial.

The party has been holding a series of small meetings around Sydney and I went to one at a seaside pulpit in King's Cross, the city's vice centre. The first speaker gave a succinct rendering of the party's philosophy: "The new game is getting something for nothing has replaced the old Australian virtue of getting up off your bum and doing something for your-



On the box

Attentive readers will remember Toni Moeze, the writer on *The Sun* in Sydney who first introduced me to Australian culture in Bangkok last year, when she took me to an Australian evening where people dressed up as koala bears. And what, you will all

be dying to know, has become Toni, notable for her great height and her blonde hair?

Chiefly, she is campaigning for her husband, the Liberal candidate in a marginal Labour-held seat which includes the fabulous Bondi beach. She has become a television personality, an interviewer on a mid-morning current affairs programme. When she learned I was in town, she asked me to appear on the show.

It is not a bit like your cosy old BBC, who give you a leisurely drink or two before placing you in front of the camera. I arrived to find Toni, whose Afro has turned into a more formal hairstyle, fretting because the yachtman whom she was to interview before me was late. I would have to go on right away, but there might be time for a coffee.

A quick dab of powder and on the set we rushed for an amicable chat about the campaign. She smiled bravely when I gave it as my opinion that Malcolm Fraser, leader of her husband's party, was rather unimpressive in his public appearances.

It was all over in a few minutes and the coffee, which I had not been given time to drink beforehand, was still warm. I shared a cab back to town with Helen Jarri, one of the two candidates for senate of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyist group not to be confused with the right-wing Workers' Party.

But before I left the studio something odd occurred. The production assistant, who took my address for the fee said: "I hope you don't mind my

saying this, but I do love Toni."

Now this was one of those that Esther Rantzen, the BBC's first female newsreader, when, as I reported, she BBC crew were filming my office. It is a navy blue number I bought in New York in 1973. Do you think tel people get courses in the clation?

The next in our series small publishing house been held over because shortage of space.

Rich

When you are the world's successful author you can be as busy as the film make of your books. Robbins has not been impressed with previous versions of his work, so decided to do the next himself: his own film is about to start work. *The Pirate* has an Israeli theme, and Robbins hoping to do the location in Israel and Egypt.

Naturally, the film one of the most expensive, made with a budget of eight and 10 million. Robbins has not been impressed with previous versions of his work, so decided to do the next himself: his own film is about to start work. *The Pirate* has an Israeli theme, and Robbins hoping to do the location in Israel and Egypt. One of the most expensive, made with a budget of eight and 10 million. Robbins has not been impressed with previous versions of his work, so decided to do the next himself: his own film is about to start work. *The Pirate* has an Israeli theme, and Robbins hoping to do the location in Israel and Egypt.



WOULD THE DEATH PENALTY HELP?

Tomorrow the House of Commons is again considering the question of capital punishment for terrorism. The question naturally divides into two parts. Is capital punishment for terrorism morally justified, and if it is morally justified, is it expedient? About the first part of the question we have no doubt: the situation which the terrorists have created is one of war. They do not hesitate to kill innocent British citizens in large numbers in Northern Ireland, and in smaller numbers elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

The morality of killing the terrorists cannot properly be distinguished from the morality of killing enemy soldiers in war. It is true that terrorists usually are to be arrested and tried, whereas enemy soldiers are killed in battle. But that is a variation of form and not of substance. Terrorists operate in a secret way and take lives by secret means. In conventional warfare secret agents are liable to execution when detected, and in this sense terrorists are secret agents.

Pacifists

We believe, therefore, that the morality of capital punishment in terrorist cases is at one with the morality of killing enemy soldiers in the conduct of justifiable and defensive war. There are, of course, pacifists who, for Christian or other reasons, regard any taking of life by the state as wrong. That has never been the view of this newspaper and we do not take it in this case.

The question, granted, is one of advantage. Terrorists are one of the few who are entitled to take the lives of other people. It is in fact helpful to the cause in which we are fighting them to do so. Here there are a number of subsidiary arguments. It is clear that capital punishment for terrorists would lead to further terrorist outrages of one sort or another. The terrorists could be expected to apply the doctrine of life for a life and more innocent people would be killed. If it were necessary for the successful prosecution of the anti-terrorist campaign to accept that risk, then it could well be right to accept these casualties. In a war one does not hesitate to hit the enemy because the enemy might hit back. But obviously if it cannot be shown that capital punishment will help in the main campaign these consequential casualties are merely a waste of lives.

There are also difficulties of a technical character about the drafting of a Statute which defines terrorism. These difficulties would not seem to be insuperable. All legal systems divide criminal homicide into different categories, even if only into the categories of murder and manslaughter. We would not doubt the ability of a jury to determine whether a particular murder was done for terrorist reasons or not. Again, if the balance of advantage lay in the restoration of capital punishment for terrorist murders, the technical problems would not be an insuperable barrier.

A SENSIBLE COMPROMISE AT BRUSSELS

All signs that the EEC is capable of flexibility are welcome. Monday night's agreement in Brussels between environment ministers of the Nine on a dual approach to the protection of EEC waters from certain dangerous pollutants showed an encouraging readiness to take account of the special circumstances of individual member states without abandoning a common target. This is not a new phenomenon. The same spirit marked the "renegotiation" of Britain's terms of entry. It increasingly characterizes the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy. To some extent it was required by the late entry into the Community of a country with Britain's combination of economic weakness and residual political weight.

It is instructive that whereas the British government gained little and lost much in its demand for a separate seat at the forthcoming Paris energy conference it has gained much economically and lost relatively little good will by standing up for the field of national interests. The difference is that the first stand was an intellectually unconvincing challenge to the whole principle

of the EEC's relations with the outside world; the second, by contrast, concerned industrial practice rather than EEC theology, and was supported by some convincingly commonsense logic.

To a large extent, the British method of administrative control of pollution has been to concentrate on the proportion of pollutant in the receiving element, be it air, ground or water, rather than on the quantity of noxious substances emitted by any one factory, sewage works, or other potential polluter. On this basis, different emission standards have been accepted for a fast-flowing river with a single polluting factory and for a sluggish river with a dozen potentially dangerous plants in its banks. This approach has produced a rare degree of partnership between government and industry.

It was therefore with a feeling of pride in past successes that the British Government held out stubbornly for a system of controlling the composition of the actual effluent, regardless of the ability of the receiving rivers,

being replaced by colossal modern buildings of no distinction at all. The only merit of the latest development is that it permits a clear frontal view of Bentley's superb Westminster Cathedral, by comparison with which it appears tawdry indeed.

Yours faithfully,
T. P. HUDSON,
The Globe, Tangmere, Near Chichester, Sussex, November 30.

Modern buildings

Mortgage tax relief

From the Rev David Ashforth
Sir, Not everyone living in tied accommodation is waiting for the

government to give them security of tenure, or for the local authority to rehouse them. Some of us have decided to buy our own homes in anticipation of possible changes in jobs or eventual retirement to an area of our choice.

The Head Office of HM Inspector of Taxes discourages us from doing this by denying us the income tax relief on mortgage interest enjoyed by other people buying their own homes.

It would help if the government would instruct their tax inspectors to discriminate between people who are buying a second home and those who are struggling to buy their first.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. ASHFORTH,
The West London Chaplaincy, 25 Campden Hill Square, W8.

executions would or would not tend to isolate the IRA still further from their Irish Catholic communities to see that they could not do good. Therefore, it would be contrary to the major strategy of defeating the IRA to reintroduce capital punishment.

That must be the conclusion. Capital punishment for terrorist offences is both morally permissible and feasible, though it would cause casualties on one side, but it would be strategically damaging. It would give the IRA an advantage which it is not in our interests to give them. They would lose a comparatively small number of active men who, having been caught, would in any case be subject to long-term imprisonment but they would gain support that they could not otherwise gain. That is why most senior policemen and most senior Army officers and civil officials in Northern Ireland, and most senior policemen and most senior judges in England do not want capital punishment for these terrorists. Those who command the fight against the IRA believe that it would make the fight more difficult for them.

Great strain

It does not follow that this would always be so. It is possible that at some stage the strategy of detaching the IRA from its base of support might be seen to have failed, and that the alternative strategy which is one of total repression of the IRA regardless of the effect of the methods on their potential supporters, might be followed. But this strategy itself has great and obvious dangers and disadvantages. No government so far has been prepared to follow it, and so long as there is any prospect of ultimate success for the strategy of alienating the Catholic community from the IRA, it is right to continue to apply it. There is at present more than hope, there is solid evidence that the IRA is losing ground in its own community.

At the same time the political policy which has been pursued so far does impose great strain on the community in Northern Ireland and a strain on the community in the rest of the United Kingdom. It needs to be reinforced by a very tough determination to overcome the IRA by existing methods. In particular so far as Northern Ireland is concerned, the Army must be given freedom to conduct the most efficient military operations against the IRA. The situation in south Armagh does not suggest that they have all the support they need. In Britain additional resources may need to be given to the Police; it may even be necessary to consider the question of Police pay outside the general strategy of incomes policy in order to bring police manpower up to desirable levels. Recent successes only emphasize the fact that these men have to be caught. The ability to catch them is more important than the punishment which is inflicted on them after they have been convicted. It would certainly be wrong to punish those we catch in such a way as to win support for their movement.

Juvenile crime

From Mrs Renee Soskin
Sir, No one will dispute with Mrs Short (The Times November 21) that it is undesirable for children to grow up in institutions. When discussing the immediate and alarming problems of the significant increase in juvenile crime, some of it of a serious kind, Mrs Short is obviously living in cloud cuckoo land. Can she seriously imagine that today there would be any hope of finding suitable foster homes for children with such pathological backgrounds? The fact that no existing community home will take them—a fact which has again been proved by recent figures from a London assessment centre?

Many of the hard core of young delinquents, as opposed to the more numerous but less serious ones, are exceedingly sophisticated in their attitude towards crime and extremely knowledgeable about their freedom to offend with impunity under the 1969 Act. Had the Government been able to service the 1969 Act as intended by its sponsors by providing a multitude of expert social workers, a wide range of short and long stay community homes, foster homes, a variety of intermediate treatment,

and has flourished (illegally) all the more.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SELKIRK, Editor,
Current Archaeology, 9 Nassington Road, NW3, December 6.

The death penalty for terrorism

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and others

Sir, In the face of increasing violence and politically motivated killing we share the deep anguish of all the victims and the anger of our fellow citizens. We condemn terrorism, however motivated, without reservation. It is a crime against justice and a crime against a peaceful society. It is totally incompatible with the Christian faith.

In the light of that, we understand the motives and feelings of those who call for the reintroduction of capital punishment. However, for reasons that we have set out in our statement, we believe that this would be a tragic mistake. Indeed, it would be a victory for the terrorists. For the state to bring back executions and so return to a relic of a bygone age, would be to concede that Britain had itself been forced to resort to methods of law enforcement commonly used in a political context by nations whose methods we properly condemn as inhuman.

There is not the slightest guarantee that by killing the killers the level of social violence would be decreased. The opposite is at least as likely. The creation of martyrs, as Anglo-Irish history has shown in the past, is not the best road to peace. The hanging of terrorists would add one more macabre and violent element to the present situation. In Ireland it might well bring civil war nearer.

It is the awesome task of our rulers to protect all our citizens. It is for us as Christians to help them to do this. If we believe, as we do, that the state, in our name, adds to the number who die, our will to build a compassionate society leads us to the conviction that justice is not best served by retribution. The sanctity of human life is indivisible. At a time when reverence for life is at risk in many other contexts, both at home and abroad, our nation, if it abides by that principle, even under severe provocation, will contribute significantly to a more sane and humane world.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD CANTUAR, Archbishop of Canterbury,
JAMES G. MATTHESON, Moderator, Church of Scotland,
DONALD R. LEE, Moderator, Free Church of Scotland,
G. WILLIAM CAMBRENSIS, Archbishop of Wales,
GEORGE B. CAIRD, Moderator, United Reformed Church,
STUART EBOR, Archbishop of York,
DONALD D. BLACK, Baptist Union, Durham,
GERALD LONDON, Bishop of London,
ARTHUR MCARTHUR, Vice-President, British Council of Churches,
J. KUSSELL POPE, Ex-President, Methodist Conference,
JOHN WINTON, Bishop of Winchester, Christian Action, 2 Amen Court, EC4.

From Mr Martin Ackroyd
Sir, I am unashamedly a supporter of the restoration of the death penalty for acts of terrorism. Mr Thatcher expressed my feelings admirably by saying that "Those

who commit these terrible crimes against humanity have forfeited their right to live."

On Thursday the Commons will vote on restoring capital punishment for acts of terrorism resulting in loss of life. Despite the general abhorrence throughout the country to the cold-blooded assassination of Ross McWhirter, it is expected that MPs will vote against its reintroduction. This decision will oppose the wishes of the people of the United Kingdom who are united in their call for the death penalty as the only logical punishment for such crimes.

For once, MPs are in the position of knowing quite clearly the action requested of them. None can argue that the issue in question is not clearly understood by the "man in the street". The Labour Government, so keen to follow the "wishes of the people" by offering us a referendum on the complex issue of EEC membership, would not dare call a referendum on this issue. Why? Because the Government is well aware that, unlike the EEC referendum, the outcome would be the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Assuming that no new legislation is introduced on Thursday, I believe that an awareness should be created of the fact that even without new legislation the death penalty can still be imposed. Several crimes can be defined as treason, that is, a crime against the state. If a revolt is raised to reform some national grievance, to alter the establishment law or religion, to obstruct the execution of some general law by armed force or for any other purpose which usurps the Government in matters of a public or general nature, it is treason.

Treason may be committed by anyone owing allegiance to the Crown and despite the abolition of the Death Penalty Act 1965, the penalty for treason is still death. Yours faithfully,
MARTIN J. ACKROYD, Flat 6, Oak House, Oak Lane, Bradford, Yorkshire, December 6.

From Mr R. Edey
Sir, When the House of Commons debates the restoration of capital punishment for acts of terrorism they should remind themselves of the fact that 21 people died in the public houses in Birmingham and scores were injured because the Home Secretary refused to permit the IRA to stage a funeral procession in this country for one of their number who blew himself up in attempting to blow up the Coventry telephone exchange.

There could have been no greater reprisal on the part of the IRA. Yet the court that sentenced those convicted of this terrible crime had no greater sentence available to pass than that given to the Cambridge rapist and others convicted of crimes which are less than even "ordinary" murder.

Of course if Judith Ward had been executed for the murder of 12 men, women and children in the service coach in Yorkshire she would have been a martyr in the eyes of the IRA. The Price sisters were in any event. She would not be a martyr in the eyes of right thinking people.

Whilst incarcerated in prison these people are a constant threat. The main demand of those who kidnapped Dr Herrema was the release of notorious terrorists. The IRA have made it abundantly clear that they are in a state of war with the state. Account must be taken of the situation they have created. The state must accept the challenge and restore capital punishment for acts of terrorism.

Yours faithfully,
R. EDEY, 2 Gloucester Court, 33 Gloucester Avenue, NW1, December 9.

enough secure accommodation, suitable educational opportunities for children of all abilities, small educational units where large ones are obviously unable to cope, there is a possibility the Act might have worked.

None of these facilities was forthcoming. Without them the act became an exercise in futility. The result in the courts becoming powerless, the social services stretched to breaking point, the police so frustrated that they often are unwilling to take action.

Out of all this emerges a frighteningly large number of children able to cock a snook at authority and totally untrained to accept the discipline essential for the survival of democracy. By all means let us continue to examine and reassess our methods of dealing with this very complex problem as well as at the same time trying to eradicate some of the social ills that are the root cause. But, in the meantime, all involved have a duty to the community and to the children to perform, and we are being forced to do it very badly indeed.

Yours faithfully,
RENEE SOSKIN, Chairman, Camden Juvenile Court, 133a Seymour Place, W1.

Archaeological loot

From Mr Andrew Selkirk
Sir, All archaeologists will, I am sure, agree that the law of treasure trove needs to be amended to remove the absurd distinction between whether the original owner succeeded in recovering the goods or not. Unfortunately, however, this anomaly is being used by some professional archaeologists to discredit our generally admirable antiquities legislation as a whole, and to press for a licensing system.

Yet the case against a licensing system is well known: it does not work. In Italy, for instance, where Mussolini introduced just such draconian legislation, the results have been disastrous. The laws have merely succeeded in completely antagonizing landowners and farmers, so that treasure hunting has long acquired a Robin Hood

Closed shop law and individuals

From Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative MP for Waltham Forest

Sir, I am encouraged by the support shown by your reader column of December 2 and 4 by Mr Michael Foot from the ranks of those defending liberty to those supporting corruption, or in popular terms, fascism.

Since it may seem odd to some people that a long term trade unionist should criticize the further growth of trade union power, I would like to put in simple terms what I fear may happen as a result of current and future legislation. That absolute power is absolutely corrupting, is said so often that its truth is often overlooked, and I believe that trade unions are too important to be thus corrupted. The evils of the unrestricted closed shop, combined perhaps with the denial of unemployment benefit to those dismissed as a result of its operation, will be felt first by the awkward squad—the men and women with strongly held ethical, professional, religious or political ideas.

Those who feel less strongly should not, however, feel secure for if no courts can restrain the unions and there is no power to require that the rule book or disciplinary procedures are fair, what will be the fate of the ordinary man who falls foul of the shop stewards over matters which may even be unrelated to his employment. A row in the pub or over a dividend can lead to bitter feelings. As surely as in the long past a vicious foreman could extract his revenge, so in Mr Foot's brave new world a vicious shop steward would have power beyond that of any employer's man for many many years past. Freedom—like the law—is indivisible and though it is always the intellectuals and the press, who first feel the touch of the authoritarian whip, no one is safe from its lash when liberty is eroded.

For Mr Foot to claim, as he did in his letter published on December 6, 1975, that liberty is best defended, not by Parliament or the courts of the land, but by tribunals of partisan judges, underlines the rightness of the charge that he has become a convert to the doctrines of the corporate state.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN TEBBIT, House of Commons, December 8.

From Sir Oswald Mosley
Sir, Far be it from me to deprive Mr Foot of his Fascist tributes. Yet it may be opportune to comment on present reversal of values and confusion of terminology.

Planning disputes

From Professor E. H. Warrington
Sir, Since 1952 a total of 27 planning applications has been made for development of an area of land in Nan Clark's Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7, to which the House of Lords rejected this summer on appeal, by an Inspector of the Department of the Environment. In all, 10 of these applications have been to appeal.

The land lies in the green belt; within a conservation area; enjoys a tree preservation order on its dense, full-grown woodland; and even contains a pond that has lately been turned into a recognized bird sanctuary. To its honour, the local authority has steadfastly resisted development. Yet there seems to be no limit to the number of attempts that a would-be developer may make to get his way and, by varying his applications in content, thereby to wear down the resistance of objectors who are not always well organized and even if they are cannot hope to go on paying for legal advice on the scale required.

Repeated applications and appeals like these throw a great deal of work on overstretched planning departments of local authorities. They thereby add to the burden of the rates. They waste councillors' time.

Furthermore, they add to general tension since at each appeal the whole process has to be gone through before an Inspector of the D of E, or in writing, even though appeals in very much the same tenor, for the same patch of land, have been rejected half a score times already. Whichever way the decision goes the only loser either way is the ratepayer/taxpayer who

Rates for education

From Mrs L. G. Smith
Sir, An enormous proportion of Hertfordshire County Council's rates goes towards education. I have no children nor do I intend to have any. In view of the Law Lord's decision concerning non-payment of sewerage charges this week, does this now mean that I can refuse to pay that part of the rate related to education? Yours faithfully,
L. GILLIAN SMITH, 5 South Cottage Gardens, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, December 4.

Community Land Act

From Mr Victor Moore
Sir, Nearly a month after the Community Land Act received the Royal Assent, the Government has issued a circular on it to the relevant authorities.

Would it now be possible for the Act to be published? Yours faithfully,
VICTOR MOORE, Assistant Editor, Journal of Planning and Environment Law, 11 New Fetter Lane, EC4, December 3.

Rostropovitch in Paris

From Mr Jack Bornoff
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Horace Judson, is mistaken, in his turn, in his statement (November 29) that Rostropovitch's visit to Paris in 1970 was "the last he was permitted until he was finally allowed to taken up residence in the West".

Fascism has been dead for many years, but at the time was a last desperate attempt by diverse methods in different countries to overcome conditions which appear incipient in Britain today. The collapse of society was manifest in large unemployment and industrial anarchy, which in some cases came under violent communist leadership.

So far from being a suppression of the individual it was in origin an attempt to save him from the oppression of organizations which were stronger than the state. A similar service was performed by some of our early kings in front of baronial power.

However in later development you are surely right, sir, in thinking that the corporate state became too bureaucratic, too regardless of individual rights, as I maintained at the time. Yet we are still faced with the same problem: how can elected government within a democratic system give the necessary leadership to equate production with consumption in a viable area, while preserving individual rights and the incentive of free enterprise to full output?

I attempted an answer in the wage-price mechanism twenty-five years ago, which with subsequent thinking in my view goes far beyond my earlier thought now regarded as acceptable. Many minds move today in the direction of necessary state intervention, and a clear industrial plan appears more than ever needed.

Contingency planning is also required in case things go wrong, and this crisis proves no cyclical but fundamental as some of us have long believed. Unemployment in Britain during the thirties never exceeded 24 million in contrast with over 6 million in Germany and collapse in Italy. A government drawn from the whole nation and given certain powers of wartime action by a freshly elected Parliament—then discussed between Lloyd George and a few of us in all generations—was not yet felt to be necessary by a country whose economic problem was temporarily resolved by war and its aftermath.

However even a lesser affliction of our people by economic failure might now evoke demand for this best solution of grave danger. Some should always prepare for the worst, while all work for the best.

Yours faithfully,
OSWALD MOSLEY, 1 Rue des Lacs, Orsay 91, France, December 9.

pays out of both his pockets: from the one to finance the system and from the other to finance his objections.

An equitable way to deter such repeated planning applications, as well as to help to shift some of the cost from the "defendants" to the applicants (without unduly stunting the enterprise of builders and developers) might be to introduce into town planning legislation a rising scale of costs of the application procedure chargeable to the would-be developer. These costs would help to cover the expenses of the local authority and those of an appeal if one were sought. A first application should be free, as now, but thereafter the charges would rise sharply. Something from them should go towards the expenses of local objectors and civic societies.

The irony is that nothing prevents the Secretary of State for the Environment from making use of his existing powers to award costs, but he seldom does, as is made clear in Review of the Development Control System, a report produced by Mr George Dobry, QC in February, 1975. I now suggest that a scale be legislated into the system. It would do much to reduce needless work and worry. Developers with a good case would not be deterred. And it might even bring in a little money.

Nan Clark's Lane is said to be haunted by the ghost of its murdered eponym; her unquiet perhaps informs the spirit of this letter. I should like to see it laid to rest.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
E. H. WARRINGTON, Vice-Chairman, Mill Hill Preservation Society, 48 Flower Lane, NW7.

national Music Council. On this occasion he and other distinguished artists (including the International Music Council's President, Yehudi Menuhin, Wilhelm Kempff, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Gerald Moore) gave their services to launch the Musicians' International Mutual Aid Fund.

Yours truly,
JACK BORNOFF, Executive Secretary, International Music Council, UNESCO, Rue Molitor, Paris, France, December 3.

Ordinance survey maps

From Professor J. Parry Lewis
Sir, In April of this year Her Majesty's Stationery Office issued a revised price list for ordinance survey maps. Now they have issued another, of a similar magnitude of changes is illustrated by the fact that one map, which cost £1.73 in 1974, had its price raised to £4 in April, 1975, and now has been put at £5. I do not know whether the Price Commission has authorized these increases, but may we at least hope that next year HMSO will keep its prices stationary.

Yours truly,
J. PARRY LEWIS, Professor of the Economics of Regions and Towns, University of Manchester, Manchester 13.

The Loch Ness hunt

From Mr Sidney Sabin
Sir, The credulous in pursuit of the fabulous.

I am, your obedient servant,
SIDNEY F. SABIN, 82 Campden Hill Road, Kensington, W8, December 6.

Putting some beef into Christmas

حکومت الامارات

[illegible]

State loan of £4.9m for Ransome investment

A \$4.9m loan is being provided by the Government of Ransomed Hoffmann Pollard to enable the ball-bearing group to bring forward its investment programme. The money has been repaid from the sale of medium-term bonds on the Government's concessionary terms (between 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent).

The loan is being made under Section 8 of the 1972 Industry Act following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's measures in the Spring Budget to set aside £100m to help companies with modernization plans, and speed up their investment projects. A further £80m was set aside in October 1980 with another £20m for modernization schemes.

The £4.9m will be used to

ment programme to expand bearing production at their Chelmsford, Newark, Ferrybridge and Stonehouse plants, which has had to be financed on cash-flow grounds. Depreciation last year was £1.6m against capital investment of £4m. Capacity is being increased for transmission, aerospace and defence engineering, and there is also good export potential.

RHP also announced yesterday its full year results for the year to October 3. These were in line with the forecast made at the time of the half year results. MTE, a Southend based manufacturer of electrical control gear. On turnover up from £52.1m to £63.6m, pre-tax profit more than doubled to £9.86m. However, thanks to a second half decline and a volume decrease in turnover of around 4 per cent. Export markets, particularly in the United States, have been noticeably weaker than in the United Kingdom.

With the first half of the current year showing little improvement on the second half of last, RHP is forecasting a reduction in 1975-76 earnings. Even so the dividend this year has been increased by the maxi-

Dollar premium at peak

With City institutions and others increasingly looking at dollars, the dollar premium which has to be paid yesterday reached a record level of 120.25 per cent.

It seems certain to go even higher with concern over the future level of sterling and the dollar's position in the world. It requires the value of foreign investment to be maintained by purchasing the premium.

As sterling continues its slide there is little inclination to sell foreign holdings and on the stock market the new level gave a lift to international companies, notably Philips Lamps which closed 10p better at 860p after 870p.

Yugoslavia Dnr	2.50	37.00
Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied previously by Barclays Bank, London. All different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.		
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N Sea buoy in tow

A 480-foot high oil loading buoy which broke loose from its concrete seabed mooring in the North Sea at the weekend has been taken in tow by three ocean-going tugs. It is now about 60 miles due east of Scavanger in Norway where it is being taken for repairs which could take up to four months.

Group Loss (1974 Profit) before
Taxation
Group Loss (1974 Profit) attributable
shareholders
Unappropriated profit brought forward
Dividend

- **Seahorse Engine.** In the year under review ₹97,302 was spent on the continued development of the Seahorse Engine, this being approximately one-quarter of the expenditure, the remainder being shared by Duxford Engines Limited and the Government. A full power trial in January exceeded expectations and later demonstrations were given a very good welcome.
- **Waste Heat Recovery Plant (Seajoule).** The year has seen good progress in building the Waste Heat Recovery Plant which is being marketed under the name of Seajoule.
- **Servodyna Controls Limited.** The Board decided to buy this company in order to ensure completion of the control equipment for Seahorse and for the Seajoule.
- **B.E. & H.L. Foundries Ltd.** though affected by the recession made a profit during the year.
- **The Future.** With the stop go policy of nationalisation and the recession in shipbuilding and allied engineering business it would need an irresponsible optimist to predict other than a difficult time ahead. The firm has pioneered two valuable developments and as long as the Government allow us to trade we will use every endeavour to make these developments profitable both for the firm and the country. If on the other hand they are taken over by the Government we will endeavour to have them fairly valued for compensation.

ICI studies French link in rubber chemicals

By Peter Hill

Formation of a joint company through which the rubber chemicals business of ICI and the French group Rhone-Poulenc would be linked is being studied by the two groups.

In a statement yesterday ICI said that this new company, if it went ahead, would manufacture and market the two companies' product ranges and would invest in new products. ICI ranks fourth in the world rubber chemicals league, with the French concern sixth. A merger would make them third largest in the sector.

The British chemicals group said that the objective was to provide a stronger base from which both companies could invest and meet international competition. The statement noted that such a joint venture would be well equipped to meet changes in rubber technology, fulfil more stringent environmental standards and market new products already at an advanced stage of development in both companies.

Rhone-Poulenc, however, is faced with massive losses in the current year of 1,200m francs (about £133m), and there have been boardroom upheavals recently. According to a recent statement by the group, decisions on all investments for next year have been postponed until March.

Further £90m state funding for BSC

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The Government is planning to inject nearly £90m into the British Steel Corporation in the form of a further increase in the state seed undertaking's public dividend capital (PDC). If this latest tranche is approved, the corporation's public dividend capital will have been increased by £331.5m since the end of its last financial year.

Winter supplementary estimates presented in the Commons earlier this week for parliamentary approval provide

for £111.7m to be advanced in the form of the BSC's increased PDC, and also for increased provision for selective assistance to individual industries under section 8 of the Industry Act. Out of this £111.7m the BSC will take the lion's share with a sum of £89.5m being earmarked as additional PDC. At the end of its last financial year the BSC's total PDC amounted to £545m, but this has been increased substantially already in the course of the current financial year in which the corporation is faced with huge losses. By the end of the

year next March the losses could amount to almost £350m. Mr Bob Scholey, the corporation's chief executive, told trade union leaders in mid-November that the BSC's total borrowings amounted to £1,797m and at that time PDC amounted to £787m of the overall total—a rise of £242m on the end March figure. Apart from the PDC element in the £1,797m borrowings total, a further £500m had been borrowed from the National Loans Fund, £276m from overseas lenders and £234m in short-term loans.

If no action was taken, Mr Scholey said, the corporation would have to borrow a further £1,510m to "get through" to the end of March, 1977. The indications are that the latest PDC tranche awaiting parliamentary approval is rather less than the BSC would have hoped for.

Mr Scholey, who at the November meeting underlined the need for saving, is to meet leaders of the Trades Union Congress steel industry committee tomorrow to discuss the issue.

EEC's £20m loans for power lines in Scotland

From Our Correspondent Brussels, Dec 9

Two loans totalling £20m are being granted by the European Investment Bank, the Community's long-term financing body, to help finance the construction of power transmission lines in Scotland.

The loans bring to nearly £150m the total amount provided by the bank for energy projects in Britain since the country joined the EEC. Most of this sum has been directed towards projects benefiting Scotland.

One of the new loans, which will be granted for eight years at an interest rate of 9 per cent, will be used to build 53 miles of high voltage power lines to connect the existing main transmission system to a new thermal power station being constructed at Inverkip

Report urges larger loans for European steelmakers

From David Cross Brussels, Dec 9

Investment loans to the European Community's steelmakers will have to be increased if firms are to continue to modernize and rationalize their operations.

This is one of the main findings of a report prepared by the European Commission steel experts and designed to lay down guidelines for Community steel policy until the middle of the next decade.

The experts' findings are to be discussed by members of the European Commission tomorrow, when they again consider measures to resolve the crisis in the European steel industry. The report says that because of the difficult financial situation now confronting the Community there is a real danger

of investment programmes being jeopardized. The only solution, the report says, will be for the European Commission, in its role as custodian of the European Coal and Steel Community, to increase investment loans to a more substantial level.

Under Article 54 of the Paris Treaty, the Commission is charged with the task of facilitating the execution of investment programmes by granting or guaranteeing loans. The experts' forecasts for steel production in the Community over the next five years strike a cautionary note.

In the case of Britain, the experts forecast a maximum production growth of 3.4 per cent a year between now and 1980, compared with an average Community growth rate of just under 4 per cent.

Sharp increase in Britain's overseas help

By Mervyn Westlake

Britain's aid to developing countries rose sharply during 1974, after two years of almost no growth. The rise, of 24 per cent, took gross public expenditure on foreign aid to £339.5m, according to figures published today by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

After allowance for interest payments and amortization, the increase is even more pronounced, 27.7 per cent, to £270.5m. A good deal higher than necessary to keep up with the 16 per cent inflation in 1974.

These figures are published just as the Government is about to reach a final decision on the sectors which are to bear the brunt of spending cuts. The overseas aid budget has not been one of the programmes widely canvassed as a likely candidate for reduction.

At a time when many developing countries are in serious financial trouble as a result of oil and food price increases, and the world recession, a reduction in the foreign aid programme would have serious implications on both political and humanitarian grounds.

During 1974 Britain was broadly in the middle of the international league table for generosity. Not all its aid qualities under the strict criteria used for international comparisons.

When allowance is made to meet the criteria, its aid for the purposes of international comparison was shown to be £309m last year, against £246m in 1973. Private financial flows to developing countries, made mainly on "hard" terms, amounted to £611m, which was also sharply up on 1973 (£307m).

£2.8m owed by restaurant group

London Eating Houses owes £2,840,764, the first meeting of the company's creditors was told in London yesterday. Mr Norman Sandler, the Official Receiver, said that the biggest creditor was J. Lyons and Company, owed £876,268. He said that the validity of a debenture issued in February to secure Lyons's debt would need to be considered.

London Eating Houses operated a chain of cafés and restaurants—Aberdeen Angus steak houses, Texas pancake houses, American hamburger houses and pizza and snack bars. Creditors criticized Lyons' method of securing their claims. One man produced a letter, alleging that it showed that his firm had been misled by Lyons. The creditors nominated Mr Martin Spencer, a chartered accountant, as liquidator.

Assurance to homebuilders

There should be greater understanding between the housebuilding industry, building societies and the Government, Mr Reg Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction, said at the House Builders Federation's annual general meeting in London yesterday.

Mr Fresson was concerned to dispel confusion about the mortgage stabilization arrangements which have been agreed by the Government and building societies. "I have no reason to think that shortage of mortgage finance is at the moment any constraint on new housebuilding."

He emphasized that the Government's interest in housebuilding covered public and private sectors in equal degree.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jobs creation programme: urgent call for a reassessment

From Mr G. Clarkson

Sir, It is now becoming clear that the job creation programme, through which the Manpower Services Commission is distributing £30m of government money, cannot in its present form live up to the official claims which have been made for it.

In the first place it is a misnomer to call it "job creation". The term carries a strong connotation of permanence, if not of value. By definition the jobs provided under the programme, mainly for young people, cannot be long-term. In practice they are, on average, not going to last for much more than six months each. Many are inevitably of a very basic manual nature containing no particularly valuable element of training.

Secondly, many of the young people who take part in this created work will simply find themselves faced at the end of it with unemployment. The jobs will have taken them

nowhere and left them sadly disillusioned. Expectations will inevitably have been raised and then crushed.

As director of a national organization whose youth and community workers spend a great deal of time and energy providing support and services for young people, many of whom have little hope of permanent jobs, I deplore this. It is especially regrettable that this measure was designed, determined and has been implemented without consultation between the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission and the statutory and voluntary agencies already working with young unemployed people. If consultation had been attempted, job creation, for which there is a place, could have been sensibly related to other training and youth services.

There are now moves to begin this discussion, and there is still time to do a great deal to improve the way in which this

£30m is spent, and to ensure that there is provision with the personal problem will itself throw up. But distressing that the Manpower Services Commission already, having spent no more than £4m of its £30m grant, has announced that it will be another, even larger grant to extend "job creation" further.

The Government should for some time yet before agreeing to pay more money a venture that is scarcely a war, that is inadequately related with other services that is entirely unworkable. There is no case for a grant as yet. There is a case for taking a very look at the real effects of the present one.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CLARKSON, Director, Young Volunteer Force, 7 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4AQ, December 8.

Recognizing Scotland's case on North Sea oil revenue

From Professor W. H. C. Frend

Sir, I am very glad that someone south of the border has at last conceded the right of Scotland to a fair percentage of North Sea oil revenue (Peter Jay, December 4). More than any other factor, the omission of this from the White Paper on devolution has been responsible for the SNP triumph in the regional council by-elections at Boness and Bishopbriggs.

Some would see a parallel between the oil off the east coast of Scotland and the deep water in the Firth of Clyde, almost equally valuable in the long run. Thanks to the latter, a deep water port capable of handling tankers of any known

size is at last being built at Hunterston Point, followed, one hopes, by a major steel complex.

No one suggests that the primary benefit from these major works, depending on the exploitation of natural resources, should go elsewhere than to Scotland. Why then the different treatment of North Sea oil revenue?

Anyone living in the west of Scotland can see how necessary is a massive infusion of capital if the area is to escape decline and drabness there is no change. It is impossible to ask people to continue to live, for instance, in surroundings such as Alexandra Parade in Glasgow or in some parts of the housing

estates at Easterhouse, where there is wealth on Scotland's doorstep to change their lot rapidly. These are the circumstances that revolutions produce.

It is lucky for the Government that the warning of by-elections has come years or more before a General Election need be. By then, however, it will be no agreed percentage of revenue, then no United Kingdom. Let the Government again while time remains. Yours faithfully, W. H. C. FREND, Marbrae, Balmaha, By Glasgow, December 4.

Post office queues

From Mr D. E. Roberts

Sir, We are perhaps occupying rather more than our fair share of your columns, but I should like to thank Mr Soul through you for his suggestion (December 5) about the use of the single-queue system at post office counters.

This system is already operating at one of our head post offices so that we can find out how our customers feel about it and whether there are any snags for them or for us.

Post office counters provide for a very wide range of business, some transactions being very short and others of longer duration. Counters also vary in size and numbers of customers served. What may be a good system in one place may not be appropriate or acceptable everywhere, but Mr Soul may be assured we are very much aware of the concept he describes.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. ROBERTS, Senior Director, Services, Post Office, Postal Headquarters, St Martin's-le-Grand, London, EC1A 1HQ, December 5.

Keeping up with inflation

From Mr R. L. Trapnell

Sir, Mr Robert Sheldon (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) recently gave some remarkable figures to show what gross income would have to be earned in five and 10 years time by a married man with two children under the age of 11, so as to enable him to maintain his present standards, assuming present tax rates and a continuation of the present rate of inflation. A man earning £10,000 per annum now gets £5,308 after tax, but to be as well off in five years' time he would have to be earning £81,570, and in 10 years' time he would have to be earning £337,964.

The outlook for anyone who has to live on investment income is even more alarming. A man with the same allowances but with an investment income of £10,000 now gets a net income after tax of £5,008. In five years' time he would have to have an investment income of £470,000 approximately, and in 10 years he would need about £2,200,000 per annum. Yours faithfully, R. L. TRAPNELL, 18 Wiltshire Road, Chiswick, London, W4 4BN, December 5.

Payments by Giro

From Mr A. E. Reynolds

Sir, The director of National Savings has missed (Dec 5) the point of my letter. His department's present procedure of asking me to provide a paying-in slip which they send to the Giro centre with a cheque drawn on another bank seems unnecessarily cumbersome. We both have accounts with National Giro and use could make of the very easy facility to transfer money between G accounts.

When I send my passbook to the head office of the Leicesters Building Society, they pay a withdrawal by sending to the Giro centre an instruction move funds from their account there to mine. This is a trouble to me, achieves quicker clearance of funds a requires one piece of paper rather than two.

Mr Littlewood has not explained why he does not offer the same simple service to withdrawals from the National Savings Bank. Yours faithfully, A. E. REYNOLDS, 40 Leyburn Gardens, Croydon, CRO 5NL, December 6.

Third phase of anti-inflation drive

Plans are being discussed for the third phase in the Government's anti-inflation advertising drive. This is due to start at the end of January and continue through to April.

Campaign details await the effectiveness of the £500,000 series of press advertisements now being completed in regional papers. But a spokesman for the Government's special counter-inflation publicity unit yesterday did not rule out a formal approach to the Independent Broadcasting Authority to see if television could be included among the media.

Previously Bosse, Massimo Pollit, the agency handling the campaign has been confined to using the press because the IBA considered the advertisements inadmissible on the grounds that they were "to a political end".

The agency devised an outstanding adaptation of the "Inflation. We can beat it together" theme used in the national press for the regions. They have created a series of no less than 14 separate adver-

Advertising & marketing

tisements featuring pictures of well-known local industrialists facing equally locally recognised trade unionists relevant for each area in which the advertisements appear.

More money-off offers A further big increase in the use of money-off coupons by food manufacturers is expected next year by the sales promotion companies. A. C. Nielsen, which operates one of the largest coupon clearing houses in the country says it expects about 75 per cent of coupons to come from food companies, compared with 72 per cent this year.

At the same time it is predicted that next year will see another spectacular rise in the overall number of coupons issued. During 1975, according to Harris International Market-


ing, also a leading company in the field, the value of coupons issued doubled compared with 1974 levels.

The new figure of more than £15m is the result of an upwards assessment of the £12.5m calculated at the first six months of 1975.

Nielsen estimates that more than 2,500 million coupons will be distributed by manufacturers this year. Of this about 330 million will actually be presented to retailers for redemption.

Two drinks launched Beecham Foods have appointed Masius, Wynne-Williams & D'Arcy-MacManus to handle two new canned carbonated drinks brands, Twist and Fruities. Both brands have been given regional test launches.

Benton buys Danish Benton & Bowles have acquired a controlling interest in Weber & Sorenson Copenhagen, a leading Danish agency with billings of around £1.2m. Patricia Tisdall



Lister

LISTER & CO LIMITED

Redoubled efforts to streamline and modernise operations

The eighty-sixth Annual General Meeting of Lister & Co. Limited was held on Tuesday, 9th December at Bradford, Mr. I. E. Kornberg, the Chairman, presided. The following is an extract from the Accounts and his circulated statement:

Group pre-tax profit for the year ended 31st March, 1975 was £793,000 against £1,442,000 for the previous year. A total net dividend of 9.5% is recommended (same).

In my previous statement I referred to the tidal wave which had struck the world's economy and this country in particular. It is today still impossible to assess the full effect, or extent of this turbulence, or to anticipate how soon we shall be turning into smoother waters.

Our industry has been in the forefront of the battle against low-wage imports and the erosion of margins, increasing costs, and an unprecedented rise in wages and salaries.

In face of this situation, we have redoubled our efforts to streamline and modernise our operations. We have spent several million pounds on new plant and machinery and this process is continuing as an essential part of our strategy to keep the Group in the forefront of this industry.

This programme is costly and some of the benefits long term, but it has enabled your company to maintain its turnover in a climate of spiralling costs and savage competition. With an up-to-date plant and the highly technical skills we possess across a wide range of textile products, your company will be well placed to take advantage of the upsurge in trade when the present recession spends itself.

We are actively pursuing the policies designed to counter the problems which we face, and my thanks go to the Board and all our work-force and management for their constant efforts and work at this time.

LISTER & CO. LIMITED
MANNINGHAM MILLS, BRADFORD

Racal team excels



Half-year profit up 120%

The Directors of Racal Electronics Limited are pleased to announce that the Group has made an exceptional start to the current financial year and that the unaudited pre-tax net profit for the half-year ended 30th September 1975 amounted to £6,237,000 (1974 £2,827,000) an increase of 121%.

Taxation for the half-year is estimated at £3,321,000.

The overseas demand for our products continues at a record level and in the absence of unforeseen


circumstances the profit before taxation for the year ending 31st March 1976 will be in excess of £15,000,000. Such results have only

PROFIT BEFORE TAX	
1971	£2,228,000
1972	£3,165,000
1973	£4,273,000
1974	£6,247,000
1975	£9,559,000

1976 IN EXCESS OF £15,000,000

been made possible because of the outstanding ingenuity and skills of our people—people who believe in Racal—people who believe in Britain and, most important of all, people who believe in themselves and their colleagues.

An Interim Dividend of 1.82% net of tax (previous year 1.7% net of tax when adjusted for the recent Bonus Issue) will be paid on 6th February 1976 to Shareholders on the Register on 30th December 1975.



The Electronics Group

RACAL-ELECTRONICS LIMITED WESTERN ROAD BRACKNELL BERKSHIRE


These securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

December 9, 1975

U.S. \$15,000,000

SUMITOMO HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.

9 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Notes Due 1980



Guaranteed by

The Sumitomo Bank, Limited

Kuwait International Investment Co. s.a.k.

Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.

Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.

Libyan Arab Foreign Bank

Sumitomo White Weld Limited

The National Commercial Bank (Saudi Arabia)

Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Limited

American Express Middle East Development Co. s.a.l.

Arab Finance Corporation s.a.l.

The Arab and Morgan Grenfell Finance Co. Ltd.

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait B.S.C.

Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A.

James Capel & Co.

European Banking Company Limited

Intra-Investment Company s.a.l.

Kuwait Financial Centre s.a.k.

Kuwait International Finance Company s.a.k.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Securities Underwriters Limited

Saudi Arabian Investment Company, Inc.

Société Financière pour le Moyen-Orient (Sofimo)

Swiss Bank Corporation (Overseas) Limited

Arab Bank for Investment & Foreign Trade

The Arab Investment Company, s.a.a. (Riyadh)

Ariafi Limited (Arab International Finance Co.)

Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement (B.A.I.I.)

Banque Nationale de Paris

Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas

European Arab Bank (Brussels) S.A.

International Financial Advisers E.S.C.

Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise

Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co. (s.a.k.)

Kuwait Investment Company s.a.k.

Morgan & Cie International S.A.

Union Bank s.a.l.

Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft

Frab Bank International

Kidder, Peabody International Limited

Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co. (s.a.k.)

Manufacturers Hanover Limited

Oryx Investments Ltd.

J. Henry Schroder & Co. s.a.l.

Strauss, Turnbull & Co.

Union de Banques Arabes et Françaises—U.B.A.F.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Hanson stays ahead of the crowd

Hanson Trust's judicious expansion in agriproducts (animal feeds, fishmeal, edible oils), where both demand and prices have been firm over the last year, has more than made up for the inevitable weak spots elsewhere. Thanks also to a full year contribution from the United States Seacoast group, the main impetus behind the 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.1m has been the jump in profits from agriproducts from £4.5m to £8.5m.

Property profits have been virtually eclipsed, reflecting write-offs and the gradual exit from this area. Hanson is also proving adept at pulling out of acquisitions that do not work out and £1.6m below-the-line extraordinary profits come mainly from the sale of the 24 per cent stake in Gable Industries. Since the year end, the company has also made an advantageous withdrawal from United Artists Theatre Circuit.

Meanwhile, Hanson is not resting on its laurels and the proposed acquisition of Indian Head, a textile based specialty product company, is to be resumed. Caribbrook will boost pre-tax profits even after financing costs "significantly".

After the rights issue, Hanson's strong cash position has been further strengthened to more than £30m. While this has so far given the balance sheet the strength to fund overseas acquisitions, it is a fair assumption that some of this will be used in the current year on further expansion. With assets per share of 74p (45p of which is cash), the 122p is a leaner, or Hanson's, entrepreneurial skill. Even so, the yield, now 6.5 per cent following the increase in the rights issue, is no longer the bar it was.

Final: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £82m
Sales £75.7m (£71.1m)
Pre-tax profits £12.13m (£10.44m)
Earnings per share 9.8p (8.9p)
Dividend gross 7.88p (4.26p).

Int Computers

Moves towards self-financing

Yesterday's 13p gain to 85p in International Computers' share price reflected more activity in the stock than dealers had seen for months. The 1974-75 figures which provoked this were good: a profit of £16.2m before an exceptional stock credit of £2.3m was perhaps the most, or so, best outside estimates given that there is a beneficial restatement due to accounting changes. But there was more to it than that.

After several years in the investment cold, due to fears that it might finally capitulate in the face of the brutal American competition and thus fall into the arms of the state which in any case holds a 10 per cent stake and has been providing research and development support, some see signs of ICH breaking out of the straitjacket. Yesterday's figures will have confirmed that view.

Bolstered by the success of its 2000 series development, ICH has turned in a 20 per cent sales gain with much of the impetus coming from overseas business. Moreover, it goes into 1975-76 with an order book that so far shows few signs of recession damage—partly due to the international involvement in North America—and with a much improved balance-sheet. Tight cash controls have pulled down the overdraft from £18.6m at the interim stage to £3.6m and ICH ended the year with group cash balances of £3m net.

Coupled with this relatively sound base, ICH may be able to look on 1976 as a watershed: the last of the Government's £40m r & d support will be drawn down by next September and the company firmly be

Mr James Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust, holding £30m in cash.

leaves from then on it can be self-financing. The board is making a slightly more liberal comment about dividend policy which has seen payments effectively restricted while government support continued. Shareholders may end up with a little more next year, but should not get too excited about income prospects. ICH still believes that, with heavy capital projects, such as financing its own rental business into which nearly £26m was pumped last year, high retentions remain the name of the game. Even so, on the medium trading prospect the shares, selling at around 3 1/2 times earnings, should go higher.

Final: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £28.4m
Sales £240m (£200m)
Pre-tax profits £18.5m (£13.4m)
Earnings per share 24.20p (20.37p)

Dividend gross 1p (1p)
After exceptional credit of £2.3m.
* Before exceptional credit.

Smith & Nephew

Cosmetic troubles

Pre-tax profit was marginally down in the third quarter at Smith & Nephew, leaving the total for the first nine months barely ahead. Associates, owned by British Klesse, slowed down in the latest period after a substantial increase at the interim stage but still left profits here ahead by two thirds before interest charges against a gain of just 6.3 per cent for the nine months shown by the wholly-owned operational companies.

The cosmetics business has evidently been bad, and remains so this year, with the exception of the Mary Quant range. This division's share of turnover appears to have slipped from around 20 per cent to 15 per cent, and the balance of the line write-offs of some £2.5m in respect of overstocking and bad debts.

It appears that Gala, where S & N purchased the outstanding minority some 18 months ago, saw its internal controls go haywire in 1973-74. Although the provision should cover all eventualities the trading background continues to look dismal.

But toiletries' profits are evidently up by around 12 per cent to compare with the previous year, which accounts for over half the group's profit has also done well, with the exception of the Canadian plastics company. But plastics in general are down by two-thirds. For the rest of the group it is difficult to see S & N doing more than

match last year's annual profit of £11.7m.

Next year perhaps one can project an upturn in plastics as its industrial users see an increase in demand. For the moment, though, the shares look fully valued on a p/e ratio of 13 at a price of 50 1/2p.

Third quarter 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £75.5m
Sales £90.8m (£81.5m)
Pre-tax profits £8.5m (£8.5m)

Serck

A base for tough times

Serck had a splendid second half last year. Orders were flowing in strongly from the energy industries internationally, production bottlenecks had been overcome and certain major contracts came to fruition. The year was reflected in profits of £13.18m—double the figure in the corresponding period of the previous year, and 72 per cent ahead of the first half result.

The picture does not look quite so good now however. Serck says that the market situation is now "less buoyant" and although the group's order books should produce a satisfactory first half this year, the outlook for the second half is "more uncertain" and hinges upon how the order pattern develops from here on.

Valves—the biggest single component of Serck's business—had an excellent sell last year but in order to compensate for some present downturn there, Serck's intention is to push the products of its heat transfer division (air cooling etc) harder overseas.

A very good year in 1974/75 plus a successful rights issue, has left Serck in a strong liquid position and with borrowings net of cash and bank balances at just over £2m against £27m of assets employed. With modest gearing and limited capital spending in prospect, Serck should weather a temporary downturn relatively well. The same goes for the shares at 44p where the yield is 7 1/2 per cent.

Final: 1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization £16.9m
Sales £58.1m (£43.2m)
Pre-tax profits £13.18m (£2.04m)
Earnings per share 8.1p (3.2p)
Dividend gross 3.37p (2.83p).

K Shoes

Defensive merits

There are some companies to which particularly good years are more of an embarrassment than a badge; and K Shoes is one of them. A remarkably steady profit record was punctuated in 1973 by a one-third improvement on the back of a buying surge ahead of the introduction of VAI, and the company has been trying to live it down ever since. A 13.6 per cent improvement in the pre-tax total this time, practically all of which was achieved in the first half, leaves it still £168,000 short of the 1973 record.

Whether the profit outcome, however, the dividend—and a yield of 6.2 per cent at 52p—are safe enough: there is ample cover, and the balance sheet continues to improve, with year-end net cash considerably increased, and no plans for major capital spending. For so reliable a performer, the price looks reasonable.

Final: 1973-74 (1974-75)
Capitalization £7.81m
Sales £34.4m (£30.3m)
Pre-tax profits £2.57m (£2.26m)
Earnings per share 7.04p (6.03p)
Dividend gross 3.15p (2.87p)

Business Diary: Leyland's meeting of two minds

Public figures are fond of saying on programmes like *Any Questions?* that, having read a newspaper account of an event in which they were concerned, they wonder if they and the reporter were at the same meeting.

The boot was for once on the other foot in Birmingham yesterday at the two press conferences held after Lord Ryder's much-heralded confrontation with management and unions at British Leyland Cars.

Lord Ryder, who took the first conference, gave the impression that while the new state-controlled car company had problems, they were not all that bad, and the union officials and shop stewards who had listened to the report were waiting only for the opportunity to buckle down.

He appeared to base this conclusion on the fact that at the end of his 45 minutes' speech he had not been subjected to a single jeer or question.

Summing up the position of Leyland Cars, he said that he watched the monthly figures pretty closely and he believed the company would be able to meet the target plans submitted to him in September.

Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, took the second press conference. As he said he had been forced to stop all capital expenditure because the company was in such serious financial trouble, puzzlement spread across the room until one reporter burst out that "this was a very different picture from the one Lord Ryder had just painted."

"Were you at the same meeting?" Whitaker was asked.

Whitaker, visibly taken

aback, hastened to explain that Lord Ryder had left before he had addressed the meeting and answered questions.

That may be Lord Ryder's way of avoiding direct involvement in the management and union dispute at Leyland Cars but it also meant that he did not answer questions on the effect of the capital investment bombshell dropped by Whitaker.

Instant dismissal

The American Banker newspaper, one of America's best financial dailies, is itself making news.

The newspaper, which according to one of its own columnists, was once "pretty mediocre and insignificant" owes much of its present authority to William Rappleye, who has been fired instantly after 13 years as its editor.

"It is just for that paper," one New York banker said of this sudden dismissal. Ceyford Freeman, chairman of the First National Bank of Chicago, said he was "disappointed" to say the least.

Rappleye, who seems as stunned as anyone, said that the paper's owners panicked because it lost a small amount of money last year. The dismissal was unusual even by American standards, with the editor receiving neither explanation nor advance notice. *American Banker's* readers were told nothing.

The paper is controlled by the estate of the Otis family and its executive committee chairman has been William Shanks since the death last year of C. Barron Otis. Rappleye, who

has never spoken to Shanks, was not told that the chairman was worried about the health of the 139-year-old newspaper.

A replacement for Rappleye has yet to be announced. It may just be that his work will be done by his deputy, managing editor William Zimmerman.

Sad birthday

The West German railway system has been celebrating a rather unhappy 140th birthday. The gloom is in marked contrast to the optimistic send-off given to the British-built locomotive "Adler" as it chuffed away on its historic first run between Nuremberg and the neighbouring town of Fürth on December 7, 1835.

The reason is the Deutsche Bundesbahn's mounting deficit. Whereas the railway's operating loss in 1960 was a fairly modest 402m Deutsche marks, the estimated shortfall between income and expenditure this year is expected to total no less than DM10,500m.

Even though the Bundesbahn plans to cut back its staff by 60,000 by 1979, its yearly operating loss is expected to rise still further in this period to DM11,700m. Little wonder, therefore, that it decided to put on only a modest show in various regional centres to mark the birthday.

To bring its finances into



Pains-Wessex, Schermuly, the fireworks end of Wilkinson Match, received a pre-Guy Fawkes Night bonfire last October when chief executive Tony Little and sales manager Bill Nelson left to buy into the rival pyrotechnics Wallop Industries. Now Wilkinson Match have turned to John Decker (above), another Pains Wessex man who kicked over the traces, as pyrotechnics managing director.

Outnumbered

James Needham, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, can hardly have been pleased with the results of the exchange's latest share ownership survey.

This shows that not only are individual owners fewer and smaller, but that the exchange has replaced New York as the metropolitan area with the most shareholders.

It is difficult to match NYSE's profile of the average American shareholder with his—more correctly, her—British counterpart. Nevertheless, the British Market Research Bureau this year completed an abstract of the financial services industry, which was released by The Stock Exchange here.

This shows that, contrary to the American position, where women slightly outnumber men among shareholders, men outnumber women here by about five to four.

There are, incidentally, about 25 million United States shareholders, and, according to BMRE, 2.7 million British owners of stocks and shares.

from 29,000. But, instead of facing a sudden axe, the railway's fate is likely to be a more lingering death.

The board is due to produce its final proposals at the beginning of next year. These will then have to be chewed over by a committee of junior ministers, the federal cabinet and the Chancellor, together with the prime ministers of Germany's federal states, before being sprung on the Bundesbahn and its public.

Reconciling political and economic needs in Scotland

Geoffrey Smith on the 'daunting task' of the new Scottish Development Agency

resources will then be determined by how much it can raise in the respective benefactors. That is hardly an arrangement conducive to wise and consistent strategic planning.

To make matters worse, while the assembly will be responsible for the agency's environmental activities, Scottish opinion is more likely to judge the SDA by what it achieves in the economic field.

There is therefore a considerable danger, if this arrangement comes to force, of the agency becoming a political football between the assembly and the United Kingdom Government with the Scottish Parliament increasingly disillusioned spectators. That danger would be all the greater if the SDA does not manage to establish an impressive public reputation in the two or three years before the assembly is set up.

So the political logic of its own position would suggest that the agency should go for policies designed to win swift public acclaim. But it is by no means clear that this is what would serve its economic purpose.

The easiest way to win popular approval quickly would be to pour money into a few prestige projects. But the SDA is to be given a more modest budget than some would wish and will be divided into a division of labour with the National Enterprise Board, leaving that body to deal with United Kingdom companies in Scotland and therefore probably with the more spectacular rescue operations.

The SDA, for example, would not be responsible for pumping money into Chrysler, but would have the somewhat thankless task of trying to find another

use for Linwood if Chrysler withdrew.

Nor is there a general shortage of investment capital in Scotland at the moment—rather a lack of effective demand for capital on the terms available. The commercial banks inevitably charge a rate of interest that is daunting under present conditions to the smaller developing business. What such enterprises need is someone to invest in return for a share of the equity. But it is only since the late 1960s that indigenous Scottish merchant banks have been developed and merchant banking still plays a fairly small part in the Scottish financial scene.

There is also a school of thought that believes that one of the failings of the Scottish entrepreneur—the big companies can get their money in the United Kingdom market

—is often an inability to present a proposition attractively to a potential lender even when he has a good idea. So there can be a vicious circle—poor presentation, inadequate finance, lack of ambition, mediocre sales effort.

The SDA will certainly be expected to contribute towards solving the first of these problems by lending in return for an equity stake. It will have to work out how to do this without simply duplicating the role of the merchant banks.

But probably the most valuable function that the SDA could perform would be to raise the quality of Scottish entrepreneurship in the smaller companies. This would require the agency to develop a management consultancy capacity so that it could go in, whenever asked, to offer advice and assistance.

But the agency is not likely simply to wait for the requests to come in. It can be expected to go out and seek those companies which appear to have the capacity for growth given the necessary help and encouragement. Growing businesses could be encouraged to use the facilities of the university business schools with which the SDA will undoubtedly seek a close working cooperation.

But useful though all these activities might be, none of them is the stuff of which bold headlines are made. It would not be easy as a result of this kind of work to point to the number of jobs that the SDA had saved or created.

Possibly, rather more political mileage may be obtained through the agency's environmental tasks, but useful though this could also be, it would probably be seen as work in a minor key. The real tragedy of the agency would, however, be if it felt itself forced to scorn the useful for the sake of the dramatic. The test of its leadership will be whether it can resist the temptation still to command the necessary degree of public confidence.

adverse effect of the warm summer on sales and the deteriorating situation of Rymans, forecasts have been progressively downgraded.

Excluding property sales, Burton could drop by almost 13.4m. With the plight of consumer retailers already well known—Hepworth, for example, has already forecast a sharp drop in sales this year—1975-76 is likely to be even worse, which must raise doubts about the dividend being maintained, perhaps the strongest prospect at present to the share price.

Meanwhile, Scrimgeour have collected their fair share of criticism for this novel departure, arising in no small measure from the maladroitness with which the matter was handled. Their motives have come under close scrutiny, with some quarters convinced that it was little more than a publicity stunt to regain some of the goodwill in the City which they lost when they savagely slammed down their operations.

Be that as it may, the crucial question is whether they were right in their judgment and next week's figures from Burton will in all probability show that they were on the right lines.

Several of Scrimgeour's other clients were offended because they were not included in the original magic circle. Moreover, some felt that even if the "engineering up" exercise brought long-term benefits, muddying the waters like this could only bring the shares down further in the short run—as indeed it has.

While it may be impractical for large shareholders to unload their holdings, this is certainly not the case with smaller shareholders.

One of the dangers in other stockbrokers taking the Scrimgeour course is that the confidential relationships built up with companies could be destroyed. Indeed, many brokers prefer to give their advice by word of mouth for fear that anything really adverse they commit to print will get back to the company.

There has already been some come-back on Scrimgeour when they were suspected of doing a "Burton" to engineers' group Dunford & Elliott, when in fact, they were recommending only that the shares should be sold.

Scrimgeour say that they would think twice about doing the same thing again. Which is perhaps unfortunate now that the control and management of British industry has become so separated and stockbrokers' research counts as one of the worst sources of information on a company outside the company itself.

Annual meetings are usually perfunctory affairs compared for example, with the grilling German managers undergo. And merchant banks do not always offer the disinterested advice that they should (remember how badly they showed up in the Rolls-Royce affair).

Many companies now welcome keeping their larger shareholders more fully in the picture. But fund managers readily agree that they have neither the time nor the expertise to keep close track of all the companies they invest in.

Brokers' research, given all the usual caveats about its quality, can be an invaluable service. Should we take such a high moral tone when British industry needs all the help it can get?

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		
Years ended 30th June	1975	1974
Group turnover	£224.913m	£258.980m
Group profit before tax	£6.062m	£8.381m
Earnings per Ordinary Stock	£2.785m	£3.886m
per 25p unit	11.4p	15.8p
Dividend on Ordinary Stock net	£0.967m	£0.906m
per 25p unit (gross)	24.25p	22.05p
Ordinary stockholders' funds	£28.634m	£26.764m
per 25p unit	116.7p	109.1p

"The major disappointment of the year, 1975, was the sharp fall in the Wood Hall group profits to just over £6 million, and even more so, the break made in the seven-year upward profits record which started at under £2 million and rose to over £8 million."

"The set-back in the group profits for the year was attributable to Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company Limited which suffered severely from the depression in the Australian rural industry and incurred a trading loss for the year of £0.313 million in marked contrast to the satisfactory profit of £2.06 million shown for 1974. But for this large adverse variance, said Chairman, Michael Richards, Wood Hall would have again showed increased group profits for 1975."

"The recommended dividend, the maximum permitted, is the equivalent, including imputed tax credit, of 24.25 per cent (1974—22.05 per cent)."

ORDINARY STOCKHOLDERS' FUNDS INCREASED

"Ordinary Stockholders' Funds were increased during the year by £1.870 million to £28.634 million and were equivalent to 116.7p (1974—109.1p) per ordinary stock unit of 25p."

"The financial position of the group remains strong with net current assets slightly higher at £21.176 million (1974—£20.894 million)."

PROSPECTS

The Chairman comments: "With the present imponderables and uncertainties in all countries in or with

which Wood Hall operates or trades, it is impossible to make any forecast of the group profits for 1976. All that can be said is that, barring a near miracle, a reduction, appreciable or even substantial, must be expected in the group profits for 1976."

"Taking the longer view, Wood Hall, with its strength, in terms of its businesses, management and strong resources, should be well placed to take advantage of the revival, which must occur within the next two years in world trade. Wood Hall should then again show progressive profits."

Profit analysis by activity

	1975	1974
Overseas trading	2,441	1,672
Building, contracting and estate development	2,324	1,661
Civil and general engineering and coal mining (Australia)	1,241	1,267
Materials handling	551	1,255
Food	428	446
Finance and property	132	120
Pastoral trading (Australia)	(289)	2,000
Holding company's interest and expenses	725	682
	6,062	8,381

Profit analysis by activity

Overseas trading

Building, contracting and estate development

Civil and general engineering and coal mining (Australia)

Materials handling

Food

Finance and property

Pastoral trading (Australia)

Holding company's interest and expenses

Your company is judged by the company it keeps.



BP in 1974

Subsidiary Features from Sir Denis Healey's Statement

Our policy for 1974 was to continue to invest in the oil and gas industry, and to develop our refining and petrochemical businesses. We have achieved this by increasing our capital expenditure to £1,000 million, and by raising £1,500 million from the public and £1,000 million from our reserves.

Our refineries have produced 10.5 million tonnes of refined petroleum products, and our petrochemicals have produced 1.5 million tonnes of petrochemical products. We have also increased our production of natural gas to 1.5 billion cubic feet.

Our investment in the oil and gas industry has been £1,000 million, and our investment in our refining and petrochemical businesses has been £500 million. We have also increased our production of natural gas to 1.5 billion cubic feet.

BP

The British Petroleum Company Limited, April 4.

"Your Company is organised and equipped to maintain its leadership in its main product fields... and to ensure long term success and profitability"

Stables Thom Chairman

THORN

Thom Electrical Industries Limited, August 12.

Norwich Union

Extract from the Statement and Review for 1974 by Mr Desmond E. Longe M.C., President and Chairman of the Norwich Union Insurance Group

The year 1974 has been a year of significant achievement for the Norwich Union Insurance Group. Our total income has increased by 10% to £1,000 million, and our profits have increased by 15% to £150 million. We have also increased our production of natural gas to 1.5 billion cubic feet.

Norwich Union Insurance, May 2.

Ultramar Company Limited

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr Campbell Nelson, and from the 1974 Annual Report

Our policy for 1974 was to continue to invest in the oil and gas industry, and to develop our refining and petrochemical businesses. We have achieved this by increasing our capital expenditure to £1,000 million, and by raising £1,500 million from the public and £1,000 million from our reserves.

Our refineries have produced 10.5 million tonnes of refined petroleum products, and our petrochemicals have produced 1.5 million tonnes of petrochemical products. We have also increased our production of natural gas to 1.5 billion cubic feet.

Our investment in the oil and gas industry has been £1,000 million, and our investment in our refining and petrochemical businesses has been £500 million. We have also increased our production of natural gas to 1.5 billion cubic feet.

Ultramar Company Limited, April 16.

How Standard Chartered helps you with overseas trade

Good pension fund management can improve your profits.

CHARTERHOUSE JAPHET

Standard Chartered Bank Limited

Charterhouse Japhet Limited, May 21.

ARBUTHNOT High Income Fund Units

THEY KNOW THE MARKET

Here are three reasons why I can recommend Arbuthnot High Income Fund Units to you...

GROSS YIELD 11.8%

85% in Dividends, 15% in Capital Gains

Arbuthnot Securities Limited, November 1.

Capper Neill

Designs, manufactures and distributes of pipe-work, storage tanks and access plant to industry.

Mr. W. P. Capper, Chairman

GROUP RESULTS IN BRIEF

	Year ended 31st March 1975	1974
Trading profit	1,630,584	992,573
Interest payable	222,440	185,398
Profit (before tax)	1,408,144	807,177
Tax	851,100	387,886
Profit (after tax)	557,044	419,291
Dividend	241,204	222,541
Capital employed	4,633,291	4,358,501
Earnings per share	7.46p	4.10p

Capper-Neill Limited, June 11.

In the world of industry and commerce, silence is seldom, if ever, golden. No leading company can afford to be tight-lipped about its concerns and operations.

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La creme de la creme

L'OREAL

L'OREAL, Compagnie de Cosmétique située à Mayfair recherche une secrétaire bilingue possédant la sténodactylographie française, pour assister un cadre de Direction. Situation intéressante, dans une ambiance jeune et dynamique, nécessitant un esprit vif et ayant le sens de l'initiative.

Prier de contacter notre Chef de Personnel Iris Frazer, L'oreal Limited, 18 Bruton Street, London W1A 1BX.

Tel: 01-629 8240

Branch Secretary

c. £2,600

We are looking for a secretary-plus to join our Direct Sales team in London. Administration ability and intelligence are as important as shorthand typing skills, as the secretary is the key figure in the branch.

* Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri. * Lunch Vouchers
* 3 weeks annual holiday * Pension Scheme
If you can match up to this challenging job we would like to hear from you. Contact Mr. D. T. Clay, Welfare Insurance Co. 01-499 7191.

Secretary to Chairman

ASCOT

Do you possess impeccable shorthand and typing, a calm, efficient manner, and previous experience at a similar level? Are you aged 25-35, adaptable, and interested in a responsible career opportunity? This is a salary of £2,500 per annum.

We can offer you a rewarding career with a small company. Please send your CV to: Mrs. J. M. Smith, 10, The Quadrant, Ascot, Berks. RG22 7AA. Tel: 0494 21463.

Hours 9.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 9.30-4.30 Friday, 9.30-4.30 Saturday. Please telephone Josephine on 0494 21463.

£4,000

Portuguese/English secretary with shorthand in the City. Excellent salary and benefits. Contact: Mrs. J. M. Smith, 10, The Quadrant, Ascot, Berks. RG22 7AA. Tel: 0494 21463.

SECRETARIES PLUS

15 New Street, E.C.2. Tel: 231 2146

M&J

BE WITH THE BEST IN 76

It's banking in the City. It's P.A./Sec. to the Vice-President. Age 25-35, it pays £2,000 negotiable a.s.d.

It's for the M.D. of a Finance Co. in E.C.1. It's 50% secretarial and 50% administrative. Age 25-35, it pays £2,000 negotiable a.s.d.

For these and more rings: CITY-488 0174 WEST END-836 4787

SECRETARY

£2,800 + L.V.s

Senior Executive seeks go-ahead, personality, girl, age 25-35, for general secretarial and typing in telephone/client office. For interview, the City. Tel: 01-499 7191.

Thames, 623 8464 CLAYMAN AGENCY, 31/33 High Holborn, W.C.1.

International Partnership
Consulting Engineers in W.1

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To work for Executive Partner of one of their Structural Divisions. Good Secretarial and administrative skills essential. Knowledge of German an advantage. This is a responsible position requiring ability to organise and get on well with people.

Hours 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, 3 weeks holiday plus a week at Christmas. Free Life Assurance and voluntary pension scheme. Lunch vouchers 75p a week. Profit sharing scheme. Generous salary.

If you are interested, please apply in writing to: Maureen Preston OVE ARUP & PARTNERS 13 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 6BQ

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Experienced and well educated secretary required for Director of MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY firm near St. Pauls. The job is varied and interesting and carries responsibility. Good shorthand and typing are essential. Age 25+. Hours 9.30-5.30.

If you are interested please phone MRS. JILL FERGUSON 600 6424 ext. 623.

SECRETARY

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Competent young Secretary required by Industrial Relations Manager of National Newspaper. Organisational ability, a sense of initiative and good shorthand/typing skills essential for this position. Will include general correspondence, minutes of meetings, reports, personnel records and some statistics. Salary £2,500 p.a. 4 weeks holiday, subsidised catering service. Interested applicants should telephone Mrs. Smith on 01-248 8900 ext. 280 or write to: Personnel Department, Financial Times, Bracken House, 10, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF

FLEXIBLE P.A.

AT SENIOR LEVEL

£2,800 NEG.

Support opportunity for experienced, personable Secretary to level and can handle a variety of tasks. Flexible hours, work for a senior director, have plenty of responsibilities and benefits. For interview, the City. Tel: 01-499 7191.

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FOR FIRST CLASS

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Start early January 1976. No experience necessary. Young person, preferably female, with a good knowledge of shorthand and typing. Will be responsible for a number of client cases. There is a fair amount of client contact. The job is varied and interesting. Salary £2,500 p.a. 4 weeks holiday, subsidised catering service. Interested applicants should telephone Mrs. Smith on 01-248 8900 ext. 280 or write to: Personnel Department, Financial Times, Bracken House, 10, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF

STATISTICAL

RESEARCH

salary £3,500

Our client, based in W.2 is looking for a male graduate with a degree in Statistics. He will be responsible for a number of client cases. There is a fair amount of client contact. The job is varied and interesting. Salary £3,500 p.a. 4 weeks holiday, subsidised catering service. Interested applicants should telephone Mrs. Smith on 01-248 8900 ext. 280 or write to: Personnel Department, Financial Times, Bracken House, 10, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF

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MONT CARLO £4,500 Neg.

French speaking, aged 28+, and with administrative experience to work for Chairman of Finance Company.

SECRETARY/PA

£3,250 Neg.

For International Company. Must have conversational Spanish, accurate speeds and be presentable. Aged 28+.

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SECRETARY/P.A.

required for a Senior Partner dealing with staff co-ordination, career planning and overseas appointments. The individual appointed would be responsible for progressing all overseas positions up to the time they left the United Kingdom and would need to acquire background knowledge of a number of African and European countries in order to assist with the administrative end of the interviewing. Age 21+. Please write to Shirley Tipping, DELOITTE & CO., 34 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4; or ring 01-248 3913

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Requires a

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

We need an experienced secretary, aged between 21-30, to work in our Personnel Department with the Personnel Services and Administration Manager. You will need to be a competent typist with a knowledge of shorthand, numbers, and a good knowledge of the Times. We offer a salary of £3,100 per week, 4 weeks 5 days holiday plus 5 weeks after the year. Applications giving brief personal and career details should be sent to: MR. DESMOND HAYES, EMPLOYMENT MANAGER, TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 200 GRAFTON ROAD, LONDON, W.C.1.

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Electric typewriter

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Prestige firm of West London. This is an interesting and varied job. The successful candidate will be responsible for a number of client cases. There is a fair amount of client contact. The job is varied and interesting. Salary £2,000 p.a. 4 weeks holiday, subsidised catering service. Interested applicants should telephone Mrs. Smith on 01-248 8900 ext. 280 or write to: Personnel Department, Financial Times, Bracken House, 10, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF

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Secretary/P.A. to work for

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Key executive at the Berkshire head office of an internationally known firm. This position involves an extremely interesting and varied job for an efficient, personable Secretary/Personal Assistant. We offer a salary of £3,000 per week, 4 weeks 5 days holiday plus 5 weeks after the year. Applications giving brief personal and career details should be sent to: MR. DESMOND HAYES, EMPLOYMENT MANAGER, BERKSHIRE BASED P.A., 200 GRAFTON ROAD, LONDON, W.C.1.

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FRENCH & GERMAN: Translator

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with fluent German for Wembley

Park Company. £2,700 neg.

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Must Italian for City Merchant

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Required by the Chairman and Managing Director of a substantial private property and investment group, who is also active in local government, so that the work is varied and interesting. Friendly atmosphere and fine Mayfair offices overlooking the Park. A high standard of education and short-hand typing as well as competence with paperwork and a good personality are prerequisites. £3,000 p.a. plus bonus plus lunch vouchers. Write 5 Tilney Street, Park Lane, London W1.

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Circa £3,500

An excellent P.A./Secretary, preferably with City experience is needed for an established and expanding firm of Investment Bankers. Reporting to the Director of Administration and Finance, she will be responsible for the recruitment and welfare of female staff and will be trained into handling the administration of the company's benefit schemes, salaries and accounts. This is an opportunity for an ambitious, energetic girl to move away from secretarial work. Age 25-plus.

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REVLO

MILITARY & GOVERNMENT SALES DIVISION

Require a CONSULTANT to manage the Frankfurt area in Germany. Applicants should be experienced in selling, mature and able to relocate to Frankfurt. This position involves the hiring and training of sales personnel to sell Revlon cosmetics in the American Exchanges in Germany. Applicants should be able to speak perfect English; German is not essential but they must enjoy extensive travelling. Salary approx. £4,

